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STRATEGY RESEARCH PROJECT

THE 14TH REGIMENT, CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEERS, INFANTRY

BY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL KEVIN T. CONNELLY United States Army

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by

Kevin T. Connelly QM

Dr. Douglas Johnson Project Advisor

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ABSTRACT

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The 14th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, Infantry was in the greatest number of battles, captured the most enemy flags, and suffered the highest number of combat casualties of any Connecticut regiment in the Civil War. On August 23, 1862, the regiment was mustered into federal service, and one month later, received its baptism of fire. On September 17, 1862, at Bloody Lane during the battle at Antietam, the 14th Regiment's soldiers and officers, "although under fire for the first time, behaved with great gallantry" despite their limited training. The 14th Regiment participated in thirty-four combat operations and served with distinction in the major battles of the 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac. The 14th Regiment fought at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Bristow Station, Morton's Ford, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, the siege at Petersburg, Reams Station, and the surrender of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House. It is important to understand how a soldier's world view influenced his commitment to combat and military service. This study's thesis is that Sergeant Hirst's and the 14th Regiment soldier's world views were relevant to their actions, are relevant in the military today, and are relevant in the future. Sergeant Hirst's and the 14th Regiment soldier's world views helped motivate them to fight with valor and gallantry, behave like veterans, and fully maintain the honor of the United States and Connecticut at Antietam in September 1862 and in subsequent combat operations. Lieutenant Colonel Sanford H. Perkins, commanding the 14th Regiment, reported at the battle of Antietam that "our men, hastily raised and without drill behaved like veterans, and fully maintained the honor of the Union and our native State." If world view is important to battlefield success, then how might an effective world view be propagated in the current United States all-volunteer army. An "extension of this issue is whether a draft-based recruitment is somehow "better" for the army's mission than an allvolunteer force." This study asks if there are other lessons that were learned which can be applied today and in the future.

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THE 14TH REGIMENT, CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEERS, INFANTRY

The men in my brigade were all new troops, hastily raised, and without drill or experience, and, although under fire for the first time, behaved with great gallantry. In front of the last position held by the 14th Conn. more than 1,000 of the enemy lie slain.

--Colonel Dwight Morris, Official Report¹

The 14th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, Infantry was in the greatest number of battles,² captured the most enemy flags, and suffered the highest number of combat casualties of any Connecticut regiment in the Civil War.³ On August 23, 1862, the regiment was mustered into federal service, and one month later, received its baptism of fire. On September 17, 1862, at Bloody Lane during the battle at Antietam, the 14th Regiment's soldiers and officers, "although under fire for the first time, behaved with great gallantry" despite their limited training. The 14th Regiment participated in thirty-three combat operations and served with distinction in the major battles of the 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac.⁵ The 14th Regiment fought at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Bristow Station, Morton's Ford, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, the siege at Petersburg, Reams Station, and the surrender of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House.

It is important to understand how a soldier's world view influenced his commitment to combat and military service. This study's thesis is that Sergeant Hirst's and the 14th Regiment soldier's world views were relevant to their actions, are relevant in the military today, and are relevant in the future. Sergeant Hirst's and the 14th Regiment soldier's world view helped motivate them to fight with valor and gallantry, behave like veterans, and fully maintain the honor of the United States and Connecticut at Antietam in September 1862, and in subsequent combat operations. Lieutenant Colonel Sanford H. Perkins, commanding the 14th Regiment, reported at the battle of Antietam that "our men, hastily raised and without drill behaved like veterans, and fully maintained the honor of the Union and our native State." If world view is important to battlefield success, then how might an effective world view be propagated in the current United States all-volunteer army. An "extension of this issue is whether a draft-based recruitment is somehow 'better' for the army's mission than an all-volunteer force." This study asks if there are other lessons that were learned which can be applied today and in the future.

World view refers "to a culture's or an individual's conception of the universe and human's role within it: what causes things to happen; how humans ideally ought to interact with each other versus how they probably actually will; the relationship of humans to things, to nature, and to the supernatural." World view includes the standards for judging good and bad; what behavior is considered proper and improper. It is a foundation for making decisions and can be used as a stimulus for behavior. "Individual"

world views typically begin to develop early in life and, once established are generally persistent unless some crisis--war, for instance,--sparks a fundamental reorientation."

Sergeant Benjamin Hirst was a member of Company D, 14th Regiment. His narrative letters cover the period from the time he joined the 14th Regiment until he departed the regiment. These letters, along with interpretations and analysis of his letters by Professor Robert L. Bee, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Science, The University of Connecticut provides Hirst's world view that maybe useful in the current United States all-volunteer army. This study relies upon dialogue with Professor Bee in order to identify facets of Sergeant Hirst's and the 14th Regiment soldier's world views and its relevance to the events happening around them. This research project uses the historical method as a means to assess and understand the events in the 14th Regiment soldiers lives from May 1862 through June 1865. The first part examines the 14th Regiment's history from their formation on May 22, 1862, until their arrival at Antietam on September 16, 1862. The second part examines in detail their actions at Antietam from September 17 through September 19, 1862. Part three examines their actions as combat veterans at



FIGURE 1. SERGEANT BENJAMIN HIRST

Gettysburg from July 1 through July 3, 1863, their reconstitution with conscripts and substitutes from August through September 1863, and concludes with the 14th Regiment's mustering out of service in June 1865.

Ben was born in Southport, England in 1828. In the late 1840s, the family emigrated to Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, where his father worked in the textile mills. There were four brothers in the family, Ben, Joe, John, and Bill. Ben was the oldest. Before the war, Ben and his wife, Sarah, moved to New England to find work in the textile mills and finally settled in Rockville, Connecticut. Ben worked as a weaver and supervisor at the local mill. Ben's brothers, Joe and John, came to Rockville to work at the mill. Ben and Sarah owned a house in Rockville but did not have any children at the time. ¹⁰ Ben

enlisted in Company D on July 16, 1862, in Vernon, Connecticut, as a private and was paid a signing

bonus of \$25. Ben stood 5 feet 7 inches tall, had a light complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. He was promoted on August 14, 1862, to sergeant in Company D. Ben served with the 14th Regiment in their major battles including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. He was wounded at Gettysburg and stayed with the unit until July 7, 1863, before leaving for the hospital in Baltimore.¹¹

Sergeant Hirst's letters covering the time from enlistment to his last days in the regiment are primary source data. Professor Robert L. Bee says Sergeant Hirst's views were "fundamentally guided by his adult prewar experience." The letters were "shaped by his basic premises about manliness, health and illness and his growing familiarity with the principles constituting his army social identity and his emphasis on courage. Sergeant Benjamin Hirst's behavior in combat was conditioned by his world view which was formed "in large part by his pre-war labor and class relations." It was not until the challenge of combat that 'manliness' and 'respectability' both became merged with the general concept of courage. "14" "Courage for Sergeant Hirst became the dominant criterion of manly respectability, and it grew to permeate thoroughly what he wrote." Professor Bee remarks that Sergeant Hirst's "literature provides a rich foundation that informs my efforts to see his world view." The analysis of his letters reveal how an individual's world view "as it is socially constructed, is also socially dynamic—it changes over time."

This study assumes that Sergeant Benjamin Hirst's view on combat reflect the 14th Regiment soldier's world view. ¹⁸ Sergeant Hirst probably shared essential facets of his world view with the 14th Regiment soldiers "despite the inevitable and major differences in world view between individuals and groups." ¹⁹ This study accepts that world view alone does not explain many of the regiment's actions on the battlefield as strong social cohesion was another factor in their performance, but world view was critical for their success on the battlefield. ²⁰ World view, however, that is not shared by soldiers in the unit may also lead to disunity. ²¹ This was evident during the regiment's reconstitution.

This study uses Captain Samuel Fiske's Dunn Brown articles, originally published in the Springfield, Massachusetts, *Republican*,²² as primary source data to provide an alternative perspective of the 14th Regiment soldier's world view. These articles were later published in 1866 as Mr. Dunn Brown's Experiences in the Army. Captain Samuel Fiske, writing these articles as events occurred or shortly afterward, provides keen insights into the 14th Regiment and helps reconstruct the scenes as they occurred. Graduated from Amherst College in 1848 with a reputation as a scholar, he studied theology, taught college, and became an ordained minister. A gifted writer, he traveled extensively in Europe and the Middle East.²³ Samuel Fiske answered President Lincoln's call and was mustered in on August 19, 1862, at Guilford, Connecticut, as a Second Lieutenant in Company I, 14th Regiment. He was offered the position as Chaplain, but turned it down.²⁴ He rose to the rank of Captain and commander of Company G.²⁵ He commanded the regiment for a short period after Fredericksburg.²⁶ Captain Fiske was captured

at the battle of Chancellorsville in 1863. He served with the 14th Regiment and was severely wounded in the shoulder on May 20, 1864 in the battle of the Wilderness. He died on May 23, 1864, at Spotsylvania.27



FIGURE 2. CAPTAIN SAMUEL FISKE

Chaplain of the 14th Regiment, Henry Stevens' writings as primary source data are also used to give a different perspective on events and further insights into the 14th Regiment soldier's world view. W.A. Croffut and John M. Morris' book, The Military and Civil History of Connecticut During the War of 1861-65, written in 1869, and the History of the Fourteenth Regiment, Connecticut Vol. Infantry, written in 1906 by Charles Page, are used for describing events and as historical background for the 14th Regiment. They are secondary source data and a recollection versus Sergeant Hirst's, Captain Fiske's, and Chaplain Stevens' first-hand accounts. The study does not analyze the Confederate Army's or the United States Army's actions and leadership that are not directly related to the 14th Regiment.

SERGEANT HIRST AND THE 14TH REGIMENT SOLDIER'S WORLD VIEWS

It is important to understand how a soldier's world view influenced his commitment to combat and military service. World view was crucial in a soldier's general combat behavior. For a culture to exist, there must be core values among its people. however, "diversity within the group, between the groups and the individuals exists." Historians and scholars have noted that community values and reputations are very important. During the Civil War, values and reputations were critical in the way the Civil War was fought.²⁹

SERGEANT HIRST AND THE 14TH REGIMENT SOLDIER'S WORLD VIEWS PRIOR TO THE CIVIL WAR

Sergeant Hirst developed his world view while working in Pennsylvania's and Connecticut's textile mills. His world view was "probably similar in key facets" 30 to those of other mill workers with the exception of his view on courage. The Civil War volunteer soldier's world view was not the same as the

regular army soldiers.³¹ Sergeant Hirst's letters reflected his basic beliefs before the Civil War. His ideals of courage and manhood that are a fundamental part of a soldier's behavior are evident in his letters. For Ben, maintaining courage was essential to maintaining respectability.³² Sergeant Hirst's and the 14th Regiment soldier's world views were vitally important and crucial to their conduct on the battlefield from Antietam through Gettysburg.³³

SERGEANT HIRST AND THE 14TH REGIMENT SOLDIER'S WORLD VIEWS PRIOR TO COMBAT

Sergeant Hirst's world view prior to the Civil War could not have prepared him for the horrors of combat, but it enabled him to endure and persevere in it. Before Antietam, the soldiers shared a basic world view on what was considered courage. Every soldier in Company D considered deserting as uncourageous. After being in combat under direct fire, soldiers had to reexamine their new beliefs concerning courage and the implications on one's behavior. Their individual beliefs and views on courage and manliness underwent personal scrutiny as the war continued. "Ben's letters revealed some of the shifts, but they became more pronounced for Company D after Gettysburg."³⁴

For Ben, as the war progressed, conducting oneself in a manly, courageous, and respectable manner was the foundation of his world view. Ben's experience in camp life, the long marches, and combat affected his world view, but his core values remained unchanged. Most of the facets of Sergeant Hirst's world view were related. Manliness was the broadest component of his world view and is prominent throughout his letters. 36 His belief in what constituted manliness and the proper role as an absent husband influenced how he wrote.³⁷ The other facets comprising his world view concerned "respectability, authority, hierarchy, gender, and -- far less apparently -- religiosity and ethnicity." As one of the noncommissioned officers in the regiment, he was responsible for the conduct of Company D soldiers, and, therefore, behaving in a respectable manly or courageous manner was the foundation of his behavior. While his world view centered on courage or manliness, the responsibilities that governed his role as a noncommissioned officer, independence, ambition, patriotism, steadfastness, dependability, morale, emotional control, honesty, wisdom, hardening, honor, health, illness, social circle, and loyalty. Ben had to know how each soldier would act in combat and at all times Ben had to set the example.³⁹ This manly courage was the complete opposite of shirking, skulking, and cowardice. Sergeant Hirst constantly kept watched out for deserters and cowards because their actions could endanger the regiment.40

Authority, independence, and "personal autonomy" were facets of the world view shared by the volunteer soldier. Volunteer soldiers had a tendency to question the chain of command and authority. This can be traced to the American civilian's world view. Sergeant Hirst's attitude about authority in the military hierarchy recurs throughout his letters. Hirst viewed officers as inept arrogant shirks. Officers

contradicted the manly qualities he himself tried to exhibit. Hirst exemplified the "American" ideal of questioning authority.⁴⁴

Ambition was part of Sergeant Hirst's world view. For Ben, "ambition was not condemned as long as it was free of arrogant pretense and manifested in skill, wisdom, and honest toil." Sergeant Hirst attended to ambition throughout his service, especially when it came time for promotions. For example, Captain Burpee recruited Company D and was elected to command it, only to leave before mustering in. Sergeant Hirst's original reaction to Captain Burpee's reason for leaving was to regard it as a selfish one and an "abandonment of manly responsibility." Colonel Burpee, who was Commander of the 21st Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, Infantry, Eighteenth Corps, in the Army of the Potomac, was killed on June 10, 1864 and became a hero to the citizens of Rockville, Connecticut. It took Sergeant Hirst years after the war to reconcile this dichotomy. He commented a generation later that no other officer was ever able to replace Captain Burpee.

Patriotism was a manly quality for Sergeant Hirst and the 14th Regiment soldiers. Before the battle at Antietam, Ben's letters home to Sarah reflected the men's morale fueled by their patriotic world view.⁵¹ Ben never identified the factors that induced him to volunteer for service in the Army, nor is there a record of his opinions on the other major political issues of the time. "He may have felt a special obligation as an immigrant to proclaim his patriotism by volunteering." Money or bounties may have been a reason, "but certainly Ben didn't mention them, so he at least evidently considered them secondary inducements at best."

Steadfastness and dependability were components of the world view the 14th Regiment's men shared. They believed that when a contract was made, your word was on the line and must be adhered to no matter the adversity. The men signed up for three years or the duration, and they would see the war through.⁵⁴ The 14th Regiment never doubted that the Union would win the war; victory was inevitable.⁵⁵ There would be no desertions, and they would persevere no matter the hardships.⁵⁶ This did not mean the men would hardly complain, for this they always did. The "soldierly grumblings" centered on those individuals not fulfilling their obligations.⁵⁷

Good morale and good health were aspects of the world view shared by Sergeant Hirst and the 14th Regiment soldier. If the regiment or company unit had good morale and good health, then the individual soldiers knew everything was all right. This became more evident as the war progressed. On the march to Sharpsburg the 14th Regiment lost a few men, however, Sergeant Hirst remarked that the men were in good spirits and in good health. He reported the company left seven men at Fort Ethan Allen and lost four men on the march to Sharpsburg. His letter home says the brigade is "composed of

old and new regiments and I believe it is composed of good fighting material,...for myself I have no fear for the results."⁵⁸

SERGEANT HIRST AND THE 14TH REGIMENT SOLDIER'S WORLD VIEWS DURING AND AFTER COMBAT

Controlling one's emotions was considered manly. Maintaining control in all facets of his life was paramount to Ben. His primary concern was to convey to his soldiers his "manly control" and a complete "mastery over emotion." For Ben, the best way to control emotion was to just leave it out." Respectable manliness to Sergeant Hirst was strongly linked to self-control. For example, his emotional self-control and restraint were embodied in his Anglican religious background. There could be no greater test of self-control than war."

Ben considered overcoming anxiety and maintaining thoughts and composure in combat were very important. He admitted no fear in the letters, although he did allow that it was "no pleasant feeling" to watch as enemy gunners loaded and fired artillery pieces aimed directly at him.⁶² Expressing fear and homesickness were not acceptable behaviors.⁶³ Death, and in particular, concern over his own death was not mentioned.⁶⁴

Honest and forthright in actions, without being pretentious, was a manly character trait the 14th Regiment's soldier encompassed in his world view. The soldiers condemned those who felt they were better than the common soldier and those who were deceitful.⁶⁵ An honest man was always in control of himself.

To Sergeant Hirst and the 14th Regiment soldier, there was a marked difference between a combat veteran's world view and a soldier's world view who had not been in combat. Being a veteran required having certain knowledge or "wisdom." This "can infer that it entailed a sharper awareness of the limits of one's own endurance and bravery." The soldiers who survived the battle tended to view their actions as "cool ability to overcome duress." Cool aggressiveness in combat was highly sought. Veterans had proven their character and exhibited the qualities prized by the soldier: courage, patriotism, and manliness. 68

Hardening was another character trait in the 14th Regiment's soldier's world view. A unit and soldier had to go through combat to change from greenhorn to veteran. However, to be a true veteran, the full transition demanded the unit and soldiers become "hardened." Hardening was both physical and mental and involved obtaining the "wisdom." It consisted of developing a "strong resistance to sickness, getting a good night's sleep on the hard ground, thriving on army rations, and standing up well to long, hot, or soggy marches." As Company D became "hardened," their world view had to be adjusted and refined.

Honor and courage under fire were part of Sergeant Hirst's world view. ⁷⁰ He believed veteran soldiers had a special dispensation to complain, and soldiers wounded honorably in battle were permitted to talk freely about their admissions of fear. ⁷¹ A unit suffering a high percentage of combat casualties without deserting reflected a unit's courage. To lead a dangerous attack was considered an honor, and to repeatedly stand up to face the enemy fire was manly pride. ⁷²

As the war continued on, health is the next important component in the 14th Regiment's world view. The men knew the importance of good health in order to complete the grueling road marches and fight the battle. The men, in their letters home, discussed their health with their families to reassure them that their health was not bad. When a man was in bad health, he tended not to let the folks at home know, but the other men certainly wrote home about other men's health. "I am in good health and hope you are, too" was an opening in virtually every letter sent home." Sergeant Hirst would never complain about his own health and considered going on sick call as shirking your duties. The men knew that more soldiers were dying from sickness than from combat, and good health was treasured. Others' sickness was noteworthy because it meant extra responsibility and work. Good health, in Sergeant Hirst's mind, was proper shelter from the weather and good food. This was the officers' responsibility."

The 14th Regiment's social circle was an essential component of Sergeant Hirst's world view. There were several concentric social circles in the regiment. "The smallest or closest being one's 'chums' (as they were often called at the time), who were usually tentmates when the shelter size was larger than a 'dog tent' (the modern army's two-man pup tent)." Ben's innermost circle comprised his closest friends and two younger brothers. These friends slept together and cooked together. They looked out for each other's welfare, including sharing food, passing along messages and news about each other in letters. They did whatever they could in combat to see that the wounded among them were carried to the surgeon's tent and well cared for. One looked after his close friends and they after him. However, any favoritism towards one's close friends over others in the company was unacceptable. ⁷⁶

For Ben, as a noncommissioned officer in Company D, the next wider social circle was perhaps the company itself. The third circle was the regiment's enlisted men in both combat and in camp. The regiment was compared to other regiments, and there were no rivalries amongst the companies. After the battle at Antietam, the men took pride in their regiment. This social circle is explained by Sun Tzu when he said "put men from the same villages together and the sections of ten and the squads of five will mutually protect one another."

At the beginning of the war, officers and enlisted circles did not overlap much. "The social distance between officers and men seemed to widen as the war went on. This did not seem true of Ben's

experience, or later, of his brother, John's." ⁷⁹ Sergeant Hirst remained socially close to Frank Stoughton, even after Stoughton was commissioned. John Hirst and Lieutenant/Captain George Brigham remained close after Brigham was promoted from sergeant. When NCOs were promoted in the regiment, they were transferred to other companies. This "probably meant social bonds between at least some officers and enlisted men became even closer as the numbers of original volunteers shrank."

The regimental history described social occasions for only the officers. The history mentioned the officers' wives coming into camp to visit before Morton's Ford; even mentioned officers having parties featuring alcoholic drinks, then nobly sharing the leftovers with some of the enlisted men the next day. The original officers, at least, tended to keep to themselves as a social circle distinct from the enlisted soldiers.⁸¹

Loyalty among the soldiers was a very important part of their world view. Witnessing a fellow soldier wounded put the valiant soldier in the "sharpest personal dilemmas of war precisely because it blurred the most powerful oppositions guiding behavior." Taking a wounded friend back to the doctors was considered a manly act because it expressed utmost loyalty to the wounded individual. This action, though, was a threat to the regiment's tactical situation and could be devastating to the unit as a whole. If you consider the casualty numbers in combat; if each man carried a wounded friend from the front line, the regiment would be combat ineffective. Second, if a soldier did not return quickly to his company, his fellow soldiers would doubt his courage. However, if the soldier did not stay long enough at the aid station to get medical attention, his friend might die. Yet, a soldier who stayed at the aid station too long or to care for his wounded friend or brother would be called a coward and not seen as a "hardened" veteran.

THE 14TH REGIMENT'S FORMATION AND THEIR ARRIVAL AT SHARPSBURG MD. (MAY 22, 1862 – SEPTEMBER 16, 1862)

This section provides a background on the political situation at the time, why the regiment was formed, how the regiment was formed, how the regiment joined the Army of the Potomac, and their arrival at Antietam. This period lays the foundation in the analysis of Sergeant Hirst's and the 14th Regiment soldier's world views.

THE 14TH REGIMENT FORMATION (MAY 22, 1862 - AUGUST 22, 1862)

In the spring of 1862, President Abraham Lincoln's call to raise 500,0000 soldiers had been answered; Connecticut had met its quota of 13,037. The political and military belief at that time was that enough forces had been raised to deter and defeat the Confederate Armies. Union forces had been successful on nearly all the fronts, and the Confederate progress had been halted.⁸⁵ On April 3, 1862,

the War Department discontinued enlistment in all the states. In Connecticut, those who wanted to enlist had been turned away and went back to their homes and employment. On April 10, 1862, President Lincoln asked the people of the United States to give thanksgiving for the army's success. The American people had a strong belief that the end of this "conflict" was at hand. It was a short war illusion.

On May 21, 1862, the War Department decided to form a "Camp of Instruction" at Annapolis, Maryland, with 50,000 soldiers who would serve for three years. On May 22, in response to the War Department's call, Governor William Buckingham of Connecticut directed that "volunteers be received sufficient to form one regiment to be known as the Fourteenth Regiment of Infantry, to serve three years or for the duration of the war unless sooner discharged." The 14th Regiment was the first Connecticut regiment formed under President Lincoln's call. The 14th Regiment was formed at Camp Foote which was located on the New Haven Turnpike about two miles from Hartford. Camp Foote was named in honor of Commodore Andrew Hull Foote, a native son of Connecticut, for his actions at Forts Henry and Donelson during the Civil War.

On May 22, 1862, Governor Buckingham appointed Dwight Morris from Bridgeport, Connecticut, to the rank of Colonel and as the 14th Regimental Commander. Colonel Morris was born in Litchfield in



FIGURE 3. COLONEL DWIGHT MORRIS

1817 and graduated from Union College in 1832. Colonel Morris had been a lawyer and a Judge of Probate in Bridgeport. He was a member of the General Assembly of Connecticut for six years from 1854. After the War, Colonel Morris served as the United States Consul to France from 1866 to 1869, Secretary of the State of Connecticut in 1876, and member of the General Assembly in 1880. He was well known throughout Connecticut and highly respected. 91 Colonel Morris possessed an energetic personality, but no military experience, and owed his position to the Fairfield County war committee. 92 Colonel Morris served as a brigade commander and was honorably discharged for disability on August 14, 1863. 93 Colonel Morris suffered from malarial fever and typhoid fever from September 1862 until he was discharged.94

The 14th Regiment's volunteers would come from all parts of the state. By the end of June, the regiment was less than 250 men strong after recruiting for two months. The mission to serve in a "Camp of Instruction" did not seem a heroic calling to the type of Connecticut men that eventually made up the regiment. ⁹⁵ This, along with the "short war" belief, kept enlistment very low and did not present a compelling reason to leave family and employment.

In July 1862, the military conditions changed for the United States. After Union reverses on the Peninsula and Confederate expansion in the West, the Northern citizens became concerned. Governor Buckingham joined with the other governors to request President Lincoln to "call out a sufficient number of men to garrison the cities and military posts that have been captured by our armies and to speedily put down the rebellion that now exists in several Southern states. President Lincoln, in response to the governors' request, issued an order for 300,000 more soldiers. Connecticut would have to raise 7,145 soldiers. On July 1, 1862, Governor Buckingham issued a call throughout Connecticut for volunteers for three years or for the war's duration. Meetings were held throughout the state in a concerted effort to raise the six new regiments. Connecticut's patriotic fervor was raised to its highest level, and men from throughout the state eagerly enlisted into the service.

The 14th Regiment began to see the results, and soon Connecticut's best men comprised the regiment. By July 14, 1862, the 14th Regiment had 250 soldiers under Colonel Morris' command. Near the end of July, Captain Thomas F. Burpee marched in with 110 "boys from Rockville" and formed Company D. Sergeant Hirst says "perhaps no company of the 14th regiment had so many nationalities in it as had Company D, and yet is was very harmonious company." Captain Burpee was later transferred out of the regiment on August 25, 1862, 100 to accept a higher rank. He subsequently rose to Colonel and Commander of the 21st Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, Infantry, Eighteenth Corps, in the Army of the Potomac. He was killed on June 10, 1864. Captain Burpee always remained in the hearts of Company D for leading the militia, however, Sergeant Hirst's original reaction to Captain Burpee's reason for leaving was to regard it as a selfish one and an "abandonment of manly responsibility." 103

Company B from Middletown arrived on July 31, 1862, with 106 men under Captain Elijah W. Gibbons' command. ¹⁰⁴ Captain Gibbons had served previously in the 1st Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Artillery in the Peninsula campaign with distinction. ¹⁰⁵ Captain Gibbons was 30 years old, stood 5 feet and 8 inches tall, and had hazel eyes and a light complexion. He was born in New York City and listed his occupation as soldier on the Company Descriptive Book. He was commissioned on August 7, 1862. ¹⁰⁶ Captain Gibbons was present for duty with Company B until he died on December 19, 1862, at the age of thirty-one from wounds suffered at Fredericksburg. ¹⁰⁷ His loss was heartbreaking to Company B. ¹⁰⁸ His cool-composure, leadership, and heroics at Antietam and Fredericksburg cannot be measured.

In August, Captain Samuel W. Carpenter's Company C from Waterbury joined the 14th Regiment with 106 soldiers. Captain Carpenter served previously as a First Lieutenant in Company D, 1st Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers from April 20, 1861, for a three-month period. Samuel Carpenter was promoted to Captain on August 4, 1862 at the age of 32. Carpenter was seriously wounded on December 13, 1862 at Fredericksburg when a "gunshot wound of heel fracturing his calcis." Carpenter was honorably discharged on September 14, 1863, and transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps on September 22, 1863, because of wounds sustained at Fredericksburg. The few squads that had started drilling in May were now being joined from men throughout the state.



FIGURE 4. LIEUTENANT COLONEL SANFORD H. PERKINS

When the 14th Regiment was organized, Governor Buckingham promoted Captain Sanford Perkins to Major on June 7, 1862 and quickly to Lieutenant Colonel on August 4, 1862. Lieutenant Colonel Perkins had the most military training of the Connecticut officers who joined the army in 1862. 115 He had served previously with distinction as part of the 1st Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Artillery in the Peninsula campaign. 116 Lieutenant Colonel Perkins would be the impetus behind the 14th Regiment's men. Lieutenant Colonel Perkins commanded the regiment until his last battle at Fredericksburg in 1862. On December 13, 1862, he exemplified his character and leadership by running at the head of the regiment, leading his men forward with his sword drawn 117 and calling out "Forward, Fourteenth." 118 He was borne off the field under heavy fire, severely wounded when a "bullet entered on the left side under the skin and also another through the cheek and injury to scapula from contusion."119 Lieutenant Colonel Perkins was forced to resign his commission because of his wound and was discharged for disability on April 20, 1863. 120

While at Camp Foote, the 14th Regiment had no disciplinary problems or deserters. During their time at Camp Foote, there was little military discipline or training. What military training the men had was what they learned from their town's militia before enlisting. On August 22, 1862, the regiment's last man enlisted, and the last officer's commission was signed. The 14th Regiment under Colonel Dwight Morris numbered 1,015 men in Companies A through I and K. The 14th Regiment's original soldiers truly

represented Connecticut's noble character. Connecticut considered the men among the best from its society. It was noted that no Connecticut regiment ever took to the front a more noble representation of Connecticut's best elements than did the 14th Regiment. They were actively involved in their communities and state activities. The 14th Regiment soldiers represented eighty-six Connecticut towns, and the regiment fully represented Connecticut. They were considered "a regiment of the people," and the young men's good character would sustain them in their future battles.

THE 14TH REGIMENT MUSTERED INTO SERVICE AND JOINS THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC (AUGUST 23, 1862 – SEPTEMBER 7, 1862)

On August 23, 1862, the 14th Regiment was mustered into the service of the United States. ¹²⁴ The regiment spent the next two days preparing for its movement to Washington, D.C. On August 25, the regiment left camp marching in a column of fours with the regimental band playing and flags flying. As the regiment marched, the crowd increased in numbers and became so dense the regiment could hardly move. The regiment marched to the docks along the Connecticut River, and six companies boarded the steamer "City of Hartford" and four companies boarded the transport, the "Dudley Buck," to begin their trip to New York. The troop ships sailed down the Connecticut River, and the soldiers were greeted warmly by the passing crowds. At Middletown it was remarked that it seemed like the whole town came out to meet them. ¹²⁵

On August 26, the 14th Regiment arrived early in the morning in New York. The regiment did not land in the city, and the soldiers were transferred to a large transport, the "Kill von Kull," to steam past Staten Island to the Elizabeth River and up the river to Elizabethport, New Jersey. Upon reaching Elizabethport, the troops disembarked and boarded the train to Baltimore that passed through Easton, Harrisburg, and York, Pennsylvania. Throughout their journey to Baltimore, patriotic enthusiasm was high during the daylight hours. At Easton, Pennsylvania, the 14th Regiment suffered their first casualty when Private Frederick E. Shalk, Company E, lost his footing attempting to board the train and fell thirty feet to the street striking his head. Private Shalk fully recovered and rejoined the regiment. He served heroically at Antietam, Gettysburg, and other 14th Regiment battles. He was promoted through the ranks to First Lieutenant and died from wounds suffered in the Wilderness campaign. 128

On August 27, 1862, during their delay at Baltimore, the regiment passed under the review of General Wool, a veteran of four wars. General Wool commented to Colonel Morris: "A splendid Regiment, not one drunken man in the ranks; too good a regiment to be sent anywhere but to the front!" This comment was considered the highest compliment a regiment could receive, but little did the men know how prophetic they were. Around 9 a.m., the regiment started for Washington, D.C. in a cattle train, with 40 men in a car. On Thursday, August 28, the regiment arrived in the capital at 4 a.m., tired from their long journey from Connecticut. Captain Samuel Fiske sums up the journey:

The first observation every man would make, judging from my brief experience, is that the soldier's life is an eminently dirty one. Our boys, on their way to the field, slept on the dirty decks of a steamer, lying together as thick as rows of pins on a paper; were packed in dirty, close cars, like sheep in a pen; and marched through dust so thick and fine, that, mixed in proper proportion with the perspiration caused by the intense heat, it formed a good plaster cast of every man's face and form. Water is often too precious to waste in ablutions; linen gets dirty; washerwomen are scarce; clothing of every kind grows ragged; and, on the whole, dirt steadily and surely prevails, till a regiment of veterans appears to one uninitiated like a regiment of ragamuffins. Experience has already shown us, also, that a soldier's is sometimes a pretty hungry and thirsty life. For three days together, in our first week, we had nothing to eat but a few hard crackers, and once a morsel of cheese and once a slice of ham apiece served round; and for one night and part of a hot day we had no water in camp. ¹³³

At about 11 a.m. on August 28, 1862, the regiment formed up into columns for their march up Pennsylvania Avenue to the Long Bridge over the Potomac River to Virginia. 134 On the march to their barracks at Camp Chase behind Arlington Heights, the 14th Regiment was honored by being the first regiment of the second call to pass through Washington D.C. and be reviewed by President Lincoln. 135 The 14th Regiment's staff officers and captains entered the reviewing stand and were introduced to President Lincoln, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, General Winfield Scott, and other dignitaries. When the first troops of Company B on the left of the regiment reached the reviewing stand, they loudly sang "We are coming Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more." President Lincoln faced the regiment, doffed his hat, and bowed until the regiment passed. President Lincoln supposedly said the regiment was the finest looking body of men that had passed through the capital. 136 The President's review of the 14th Regiment must have had a tremendous effect on their morale. After the long journey from Connecticut, it speaks highly of their character and gives a glimpse of their world view by singing out to the President. The President's comments, calling them the finest looking body of men, must have entrenched their patriotism and probably enhanced their view of themselves as professional soldiers. A great number would never see their home state again, and, for many of them, they would never view their state the same again.

Although hoping to get some rest, the regiment was awakened at 3 a.m. on August 29, with the alarm that General Robert E. Lee's rebel army was threatening Washington. The 14th Regiment soldiers were issued their rifles and ammunition that they had carried with them in boxes from Connecticut with the exception of Company A and B. Companies A and B were designated "flank companies" and had been issued their Sharp Rifles the night before. The 14th Regiment started their march to guard Chain Bridge opposite Fort Ethan Allen. The men left their baggage behind and took their rubber blankets and two hard crackers for a day's rations. The mission was to guard the Chain Bridge ten miles from Washington, D.C. from the Confederate forces. During this week, the 14th Regiment was under the constant sound of artillery. Colonel Abner Doubleday appeared frequently to inform Colonel Morris that a battle was near at hand.

From the time the 14th Regiment was mustered in through September 6, 1862, Lieutenant Colonel Perkins conducted what little drill he could whenever time permitted.¹⁴⁴ He conducted training, what we would now call "opportunity training," along with the mission to guard the Chain Bridge, guard duty, inspections, and other camp details.¹⁴⁵ The regiment's training and drill was limited. They had very little instructions in marching and discipline.¹⁴⁶ They were untrained in the manual of arms and regimental maneuvers in combat.¹⁴⁷ It is doubtful the regiment conducted marksmanship training.¹⁴⁸ Lieutenant Colonel Perkins' tenacity and example in taking opportunities to train the men and develop the officers would be evident in the 14th Regiment's future campaigns. There are no records of any disciplinary problems, shirkers, or deserters during their time in Fort Ethan Allen. For the 14th Regiment their spirit would carry them forward.



FIGURE 5. BRIGADIER GENERAL THEODORE ELLIS

On September 7, 1862, the 14th Regiment was assigned to the new 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division. Lieutenant Colonel Perkins assumed command of the 14th Regiment¹⁴⁹ when Colonel Morris being the senior officer was placed in command of the new brigade on September 8, 1862. 150 Major Cyrus Clark was now second in command. 151 Major Clark had served previously with distinction as part of the 1st Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Artillery in the Peninsula campaign. 152 This new brigade consisted of 3,000 green and partly untrained soldiers organized in three regiments. The 14th Regiment, the 130th Pennsylvania, and 108th New York Volunteers formed the 2nd Brigade. Lieutenant Theodore Ellis from the 14th Regiment would be Colonel Morris' aide and handle the communications between the brigade and the division. 153

General Theodore Ellis was considered one of the most cool, courageous, and accomplished officers in the service. During the year before the war, he was a member of an accomplished military

company from Boston, MA. He brought to the 14th Regiment knowledge, skill, activity, and bravery. ¹⁵⁴ Ellis had a background in civil engineering and was eminent in his profession. He was considered

thoughtful, intelligent, and accurate in his duties in the regiment. He was extremely devoted and fair to his men. Ellis was a firm believer in training and conducted officer classes to instruct his regimental officers, no doubt from watching Lieutenant Colonel Perkins. Ellis was commissioned into the regiment as adjutant and 1st Lieutenant on June 19, 1862. After Lieutenant Colonel Perkins was severely wounded at Fredericksburg, the regiment's command was rotated among the officers. Lieutenant Colonel Perkins appointed Ellis, then adjutant, to be the acting regimental commander, but the brigade commander disapproved this action on March 1, 1863. The brigade commander issued the orders that the senior officer present would command the regiment. Ellis was promoted to Major and commander of the 14th Regiment on April 3, 1863. Ellis was later promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on September 22, 1863, Colonel of the 14th Regiment on October 11, 1863, and after the war to Brigadier General with date of rank of March 13, 1865. He led the regiment in unsurpassed valor at Gettysburg, Bristow Station, and at times the brigade throughout the Wilderness campaign.

The 2nd Brigade would be in Brigadier General William H. French's division, in the 2nd Corps commanded by Major General Edwin Sumner. Major General George McClellan was in command of this Grand Army of the Potomac. The 14th Regiment remained in the 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac, until the Civil War's end. ¹⁵⁸ On September 7, the 14th Regiment was ordered to prepare for movement in pursuit of General Robert E. Lee's forces. The regiment committed the mistake of dropping their knapsacks and their other gear and left with only their rubber blankets and overcoats. ¹⁵⁹

THE 14TH REGIMENT MARCHES TO SHARPSBURG (SEPTEMBER 8 – SEPTEMBER 16, 1862)

On September 8, the regiment marched towards Rockville, Maryland, on their way to Clarksburg, Maryland side by side with the famed Irish Brigade veterans under Brigadier General Thomas Meagher's command. On September 11, the 14th Regiment arrived in Clarksburg. While marching, the regiment was jeered by the Irish Brigade veterans. Ironically, the 14th Regiment, after their initial assault on the Sunken Road at the battle at Antietam, would support the Irish Brigade on their assault at Bloody Lane. ¹⁶⁰ Nine months later, the 14th Regiment did the same harassment to a new regiment from New York on their way to Gettysburg. ¹⁶¹

On September 12, the 14th Regiment reached Hyattstown, Maryland, and camped at White Oak Spring, on ground previously held by the Confederate Army. On September 13, the regiment arrived in Frederick City, Maryland. The regiment marched approximately two miles outside the town and camped along the reservoir. The 14th Regiment thought highly of Frederick's citizens, and the regiment would return as they passed around Frederick on June 29, 1863, on their way to Gettysburg. On September 14, the regiment was awakened and issued three days of rations consisting of hardtack, pork, sugar, and coffee. At 8 a.m., the regiment was on the march again, this time towards Antietam. The regiment marched until 2 p.m. and crossed a range of the Blue Ridge Mountains. At 5 p.m., the regiment

continued the march, and the men thought they would be in the battle of South Mountain. However, the regiment was delayed in crossing a canal and reached the battlefield after midnight.¹⁶⁴

On September 15, at 5 a.m., the regiment awoke to witness the debris of the battle that had been fought the day before. Sergeant Hirst reflected on the scene: "There was dead men lying around everywhere some with their heads shattered to Pieces, others with their bowels protruding while others had lost their legs and Arms. what my feelings were, I cannot describe, but I hoped to God never to see such another sight again." Later in the morning, the 14th Regiment crossed Turner's Gap and continued their march towards Boonsboro. By 3 p.m., the regiment passed through Boonsboro towards

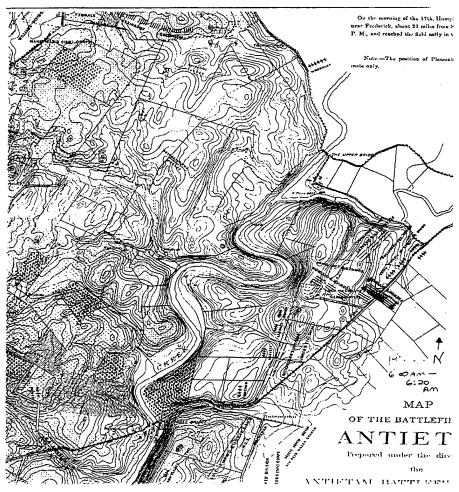


FIGURE 6. MAP OF THE BATTLEFIELD OF ANTIETAM, 6-6:20 A.M., SEPTEMBER 17, 1862

Keedysville. It reached Keedysville by 9 p.m. and continued towards Sharpsburg. The regiment finally rested upon the Boonsboro Pike near Antietam Creek at 10 p.m. 166 The 14th Regiment was located very near to Major General McClellan's headquarters. The Antietam battlefield map shows Brigadier General French's division on both sides of the Boonsboro Pike. 167

On the march to Sharpsburg, the 14th Regiment lost a few men. Sergeant Hirst remarked that the men were in good

spirits and had first rate health. He reports the company left seven men at Fort Ethan Allen and lost four men on the march to Sharpsburg. His letter says the brigade is "composed of old and new regiments and I believe it is composed of good fighting material...for myself I have no fear for the results." On September 16, the 14th Regiment rested while the sound of battle could be heard. Major General Sumner

had given the order to Brigadier General French to move at first light. ¹⁶⁹ The untrained Connecticut soldiers, the best from throughout their state, would receive their first combat experience in the morning.

THE 14TH REGIMENT AT THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM (SEPTEMBER 17, 1862 - SEPTEMBER 19, 1862)

On September 17, the 14th Regiment was awakened at 2 a.m. and started preparing for the march. At 3 a.m., the regiment received ninety-six rounds and forty-five caps. At 7 a.m., they were on the Boonsboro Pike ready to start the march. During this time, Confederate artillery rounds passed over and hit General French's division. The 14th Regiment handled this initial fire without incident.

At 7:20 a.m., Major General Edwin Sumner ordered the 2nd Corps forward. Major General John Sedgwick headed the lead division in General Sumner's 2nd Corps. General Sumner accompanied his lead division. Brigadier General French's division followed the lead division. Behind General French was Brigadier General Israel Richardson's veteran division including the famed Irish Brigade. ¹⁷⁵ General French's 3rd Division was formed with his three brigades in a column. General Weber headed the lead brigade. ¹⁷⁶ Colonel Morris' brigade was in the division's center offset to the right behind General Weber's 3rd Brigade. Brigadier General Nathan Kimball's 1st Brigade in the rear. ¹⁷⁷

The 14th Regiment was at the head of Colonel Morris' brigade, followed by the 130th Pennsylvania and the 108th New York.¹⁷⁸ At 7:30 a.m. General French's division started to march around the hill, passing behind Major General McClellan's headquarters and down the slope towards Pry's Ford about two miles away.¹⁷⁹ At 8 a.m., the regiment began crossing Pry's Ford.¹⁸⁰ Sergeant Hirst recalled that while crossing the ford, the 14th Regiment filled their canteens, and some men wanted to take off their shoes and socks.¹⁸¹ By 8:30 a.m., General French's division was across the ford.¹⁸²

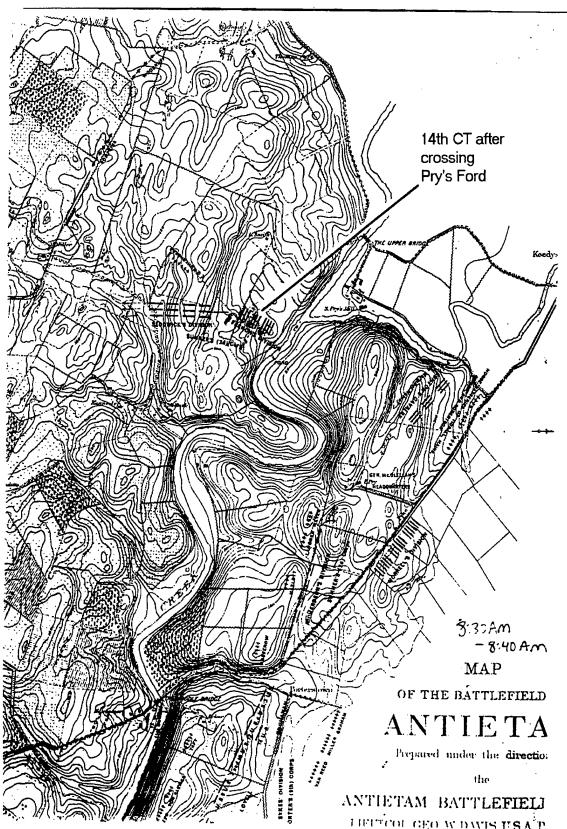


FIGURE 7. MAP OF THE BATTLEFIELD OF ANTIETAM, 8 – 8:30 A.M., SEPTEMBER 17, 1862

After crossing Pry's Ford, General French's division headed towards and upward to the slope flanking the East Woods. ¹⁸³ After marching for approximately two miles, by flank, ¹⁸⁴ along the south west bank of the Antietam Creek, the division entered the East Woods. There is a discrepancy in the report concerning the distance traveled. Chaplain Stevens recorded the distance from the ford to the East Woods as one mile. ¹⁸⁵ Colonel Morris reported two miles. The straight-line distance on the map from the ford to the East Woods' border is approximately 810 yards. If the division marched southwest along the bank and went towards the East Woods, the distance would be approximately 940 yards to the border. That would make the time for the march to the East Woods about fifteen minutes for an 8:45 a.m. arrival.

When the division entered the East Woods, Colonel Morris' brigade was still in the center with Brigadier General Weber's 3rd Brigade in front and Brigadier General Nathan Kimball's 1st Brigade in the rear. ¹⁸⁶ General French gave the order to form a line of battle. ¹⁸⁷ Chaplain Henry S. Stevens remarked that the line was well formed and the order "Forward!" was given. ¹⁸⁸ These activities occurred between 8:45 a.m. and 9 a.m. in the East Woods.

The original plan was for the 2nd Corps to reinforce Major General Joseph Hooker's First Corps, which was engaged in battle to the right. The 2nd Corps plan was for General French to come in on the right of General John Sedgwick's lead division. General French's division, however, diverged way to the left and lost contact with General Sedgwick's division. Because General French, by accident, ran into Confederate General Daniel Harvey Hill's pickets, he turned his division to the left and headed it south towards the Sunken Road. 192

The order to "Double-Quick" was given and under heavy artillery fire, General Weber's brigade in the lead pushed forward through the East Woods. ¹⁹³ Chaplain Stevens recounts that General Weber's brigade was in the front and was the first unit over the fence bordering the East Woods. General Kimball's brigade was on the left of Colonel Morris' brigade and advanced later. ¹⁹⁴ At this time heavy artillery fire was crashing through the treetops. Sergeant Hirst writes that General French rode up to Colonel Morris, after there was some halting and confusion in his brigade, and said to the men, "forward there; forward. For God's Sake Forward." ¹⁹⁵ The regiment steadied itself, ¹⁹⁶ and Colonel Morris partly turned his brigade to the right and charged in that direction towards the fighting. ¹⁹⁷

At 9 a.m. Chaplain Stevens looked at his watch and documented the time the 14th Regiment moved out from the East Woods. ¹⁹⁸ Between 9 a.m. and 9:15 a.m., the 14th Regiment, on the right of Colonel Morris' brigade, charged from the East Woods and over the fence bordering the woods. ¹⁹⁹ The 14th Regiment started to double quick over the terrain and the plowed fields heading south. They crossed the 440 yards of a gentle slope ending in a low-lying stretch of land between the Mumma Farm on their far right and the Roulette Farm. ²⁰⁰ The distance from the border of the East Woods to a line intersecting the

Mumma and Roulette houses would be approximately 1,310 yards. The men knew that they were about to receive their baptism of fire.

THE 14TH REGIMENT'S BAPTISM OF FIRE (9:15 A.M. TO 12 P.M. SEPTEMBER 17, 1862)

As General French charged south from the East Woods, he ran into the Confederate pickets firing from the direction of the Roulette farm. The pickets were trying to delay General French but soon afterwards retreated, some to the Roulette farmhouse. At approximately 9:15 a.m. Company B from Middletown was on the regiment's left flank and became separated. Captain Gibbons, the commander, was on his company's right and, in order to rejoin the regiment, he led his company between the Roulette house and barn. He executed the move so quickly it cut off the escape of forty to fifty Confederates who had been the advance pickets that were firing into the regiment from the Roulette spring house. The prisoners were sent back under guard, and Company B reunited with the regiment. At the same time, halfway down the slope, the regiment's right flank passed through the corner of the Mumma orchard. Ignoring the artillery fire, the soldiers in Company A, including later Major William B. Hincks, picked fruit and began to eat as they ran. Description of the soldiers in Company A, including later Major William B. Hincks, picked fruit and began to eat as they ran.

General Weber's brigade, in the lead, advanced towards the Sunken Road. The men would have to march through a cornfield, cross a fence, and traverse an open field to reach the Sunken Road. Along the road were General D.H. Hill's five brigades in a defensive position. The 6th Alabama was on the right wing at the bend of the Sunken Road, with the 2nd North Carolina located from the bend to Roulette Lane. A devastating direct fire from General D.H. Hill's troops hit General Weber's brigade when they reached the fence. General Weber continued the advance and passed way out into the open field. In five minutes, General Weber's brigade suffered 450 wounded, killed, or missing. The 14th Regiment, behind General Weber's brigade, was hit by the overshooting. The enemy fire had no effect on the 14th Regiment until the men were half way through the cornfield. Here the 14th Regiment faced Colonel John B. Gordon's 6th Alabama.

Colonel Morris' brigade was right behind General Weber's brigade in the advance. Colonel Morris' brigade continued to head to the front lines to take a position on the rise of ground facing the Sunken Road. Based on Chaplain Steven's account, the 14th Regiment hit the front lines at approximately 9:30 a.m. The regiment entered the cornfield about 350 yards north of the Sunken Road, extending across its width. The regiment now found itself in a nearly east-west line concealed in a cornfield. The cornfield was approximately 300 yards front to rear and about 300 yards wide. The 14th Regiment's right extended to the old Mumma Farm Road. The 130th Pennsylvania in the center occupied a space in front of the orchard, and the 108th New York, on the left, was across from Roulette Lane. The 14th Regiment was a short distance from the division's far right, facing the Sunken Road. The Antietam battlefield map shows the regiment at this location between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

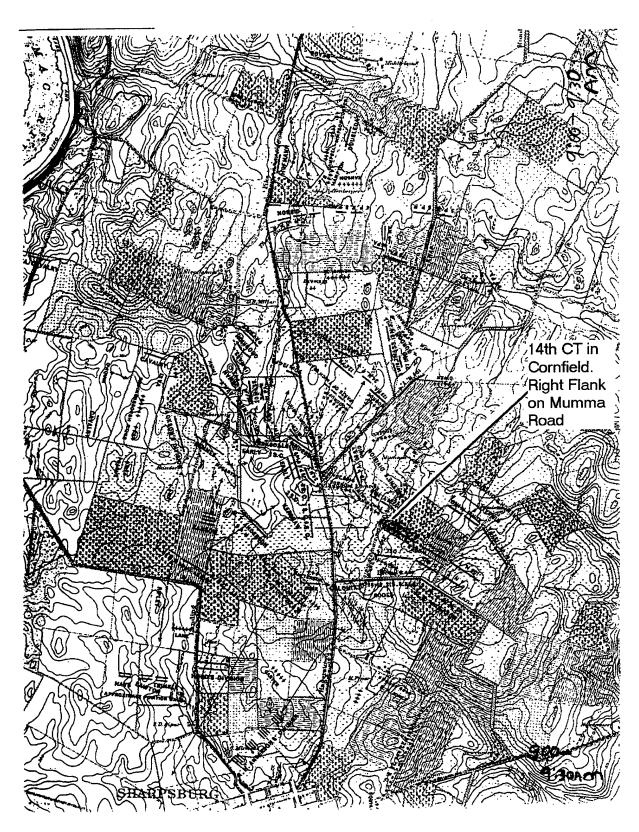


FIGURE 8. MAP OF THE BATTLEFIELD OF ANTIETAM, 9-9:30 A.M., SEPTEMBER 17, 1862

At the same time as General Weber was advancing, the 14th Regiment, in the second line of battle, passed through the cornfield. While going through the cornfield, the regiment was nearly hidden because of the mature, tall corn.²¹⁵ As the regiment passed through the cornfield, crossed over the fence, and hit the open field, they found themselves standing on a ridge to the Confederate front. The 6th Alabama's fire immediately hit them.²¹⁶ The fire cut the 14th Regiment to pieces and decimated their ranks.²¹⁷ Chaplain Stevens of the 14th Regiment says: "When the Fourteenth reached the fence it received a smashing fire full in the face. This might have dashed our men's courage, but it had been screwed up to the staying pitch and they did not waver. Over the fence they went upon the clear sward field one rod, two rods, every inch of which a withering storm of bullets was smiting them."²¹⁸

In General Weber's brigade, the 5th Infantry Regiment from Maryland was to the 14th Regiment's left front,²¹⁹ with the 1st Delaware to the direct front.²²⁰ Major Leopold Blumenberg, 5th Infantry Regiment commander, was hit and wounded.²²¹ The horrendous fire and the loss of their commander caused the 5th Regiment to break and retreat from the open field, running through the 14th Regiment.²²² The 5th Maryland's retreat threw three companies on the 14th Regiment's right wing into confusion. Lieutenant Colonel Perkins held the 14th Regiment's fire while they broke. He then had his left open fire, immediately rallied the regiment's right, and regrouped his unit.²²³

Lieutenant Colonel Perkins was able to control the 14th Regiment and ordered them to fire. The 14th Regiment could not see the 6th Alabama troops posted on the Sunken Road, but only the thin smoke from the rifle pits seventy yards in front.²²⁴ With no cover and the cornfield being the only concealment, the 14th Regiment was in a difficult position. Lieutenant Colonel Perkin's order to fire steadied the soldiers. The men had never fired their weapons before, and this order to fire probably kept them from panicking.²²⁵ The 14th Regiment continued their frontal attack as best they could. While in the open field, Colonel Morris, Lieutenant Colonel Perkins, and Adjutant Ellis rode back and forth on their horses in the most heroic fashion, urging the men forward.²²⁶ Colonel Morris, Lieutenant Colonel Perkins, and Adjutant Ellis had their horses shot out from them during the battle at Antietam.²²⁷

An amusing incident occurred as Sergeant John Pelton of Company B was firing from his hip with the weapon pointed at a 45-degree angle to keep from hitting his own troops in front. One of his men shouted, "John, are you bombarding them?" This set off the men convulsing until Captain Gibbons restored order. ²²⁸

At 10:30 a.m., the 14th Regiment was in this same position in the open field in front of the Confederate infantry and stayed here until ordered back.²²⁹ By 11:30 a.m., the 14th Regiment was still in the open field subject to the enemy fire and slowly broke down into sections and squads to find available cover.²³⁰ When the regiment found it impossible to continue the assault, the order was given to fall back

to the cornfield. They obeyed the order but never fell back further.²³¹ The regiment finally withdrew to the fence in front of the cornfield at the top of the ridge overlooking the Sunken Road, two hundred yards to their front.²³² On the battlefield today is a marker that shows the 14th Regiment's extreme left location at its farthest advance.

After the 14th Regiment had been in the battle for one and one-half hours, the fire from the Confederates to the regiment's left slackened. The regiment's left was on higher ground and could see beyond the center and to the regiment's right. Ricket's Battery, without infantry support, was on the high ground to the regiment's right. Captain Gibbons saw a line of Confederate skirmishers heading towards the unprotected battery and said to his men, "They are going to capture that battery." Captain Gibbons immediately told Lieutenant Colonel Perkins about the impending disaster and was ordered to take some men from Company B to support the battery. Company B headed towards the battery and was joined by some additional troops that came from the right of the battery. The Confederate troops saw the reinforcements at the battery and fell back. Company B later returned to the regiment.²³³ This incident probably occurred from 11 a.m. until 11:45 a.m.

The 14th Regiment bravely held their ground for nearly three hours.²³⁴ Lieutenant Colonel Perkins had to reform the regiment three times during the engagement under a severe crossfire from three rebel positions.²³⁵ One position to their left front was completely concealed and one position was on the rising ground behind the first Confederate position. These two positions had direct fire on the 14th Regiment's left. The third Confederate position was located west of the Mumma Farm Road behind barricades and outcropping ledges.²³⁶

Five 14th Regiment soldiers recount the events on the morning of September 17, 1862. Their recollections offer a keen insight from different perspectives. Sergeant Hirst, Company D, writes three days after the battle from the perspective of the infantryman and noncommissioned officer engaged in direct fighting. Lieutenant Samuel Fiske's perspective on the day after, while still lying in a defensive position across from the Sunken Road, presents a compelling history. Chaplain Stevens' recollection is significant, witnessing the events across the entire battlefield, Captain Davis tells what happened in his letter back home a few days afterwards, and Colonel Perkins' is the official report of October 1, 1862. Their words are as they were actually written.

Sergeant Benjamin Hirst tells the story on September 20, 1862:

We formed line of Battle and whent after them without damage until we came to a piece of Corn field. here most of us threw away our overcoats and Ruber Blanket (since which time we have not seen them and never will again) and whent in. on coming in front or rather near the front a voley tore through our ranks killing and wounding quite a number. the Regiment was thrown in some confusion and most of the Boys fell on their Bellies, firing indiscrimately and i am sorry to think wounding some of our own men on the left of

our line of Batle. i saw the whole of this at a glance and roared like a mad Bull for our men to cease firing until they could see the rebs. they finally crawled back a few yard and staid ther a few minuets very still during which time i carried Wilkie from the front to the rear. i then came back to the front, and got a splendid view of the Rebels in a piece of corn opposite to ours. there were just 4 of our Company and a few men of a Delaware Regiment giving them fits and i was just in the humour to join in, until i fired 13 rounds into their midst. (tell old Mrs Burrows that her son Sam, stood up to the work along side of me like a man, and like myself came out unhurt) seeing our colours falling further back we backed out to our Company, who were all lying on their faces expecting the Rebels were going to charge on us. i am not going to charge any one with cowardice, but there were always too many wanting to go the hospital with any one that was wounded and they never came by any means came back again until yesterday (a few got back the morning after the Big Fight). the Regiment was again formed in good order outside of the corn field just as a rebel Battery got our range and sent several shells over our heads. we were then moved further to the left on front to sopport one of our own Batterys, in getting to which position, we as a regiment were complimented for the coolness displayed in marching under fire. 237

Captain Fiske writes on September 18, 1862, while lying in the plowed field across from the Confederate lines:

The battle itself was a scene of indescribable confusion. Troops didn't know what they were expected to do, and sometimes, in the excitement, fired at their own men. Generals were the scarcest imaginable article, plentiful as they are generally supposed to be. We neither saw nor heard any thing of our division commander after starting on our first charge early in the morning, but went in and came out here and there, promiscuously, according to our own ideas, through the whole day. The part I saw of the fight was something like this: The enemy held a very large cornfield, surrounded on the three sides (on which we obliged to attack) by a steep and difficult ravine. On the north, east, and south, we advanced to the attack; our batteries playing our heads. Our regiment came in from the north-east to attack on the north, being the second line; the first line, a few rods before us, being composed of a Delaware and one other regiment. As we came along even with the east line of the rebels, we also entered a cornfield, and at once were opened upon by a raking fire of musketry; and a good many of our men fell. The north end of our line pressed on till we came round facing the enemy on the edge of the ravine; and we opened fire upon them across the ravine, firing into the corn which concealed them from our view. After a few minutes, the troops who had tried to cross the ravine before us broke, and came running back upon us, crying out, some of them, "Skedaddle, skedaddle!" Some of our men tried to stop them; and a few of them, it must be confessed, joined in their flight. But in the main, for green troops, I think we behaved well; the men firing with precision and deliberation, though some shut their eyes, and fired up into the air.

Chaplain Stevens recalls the events at Antietam:

Nothing daunted the Fourteenth men settled down to work as though expecting to stay, firing in the direction of the puffs of smoke or at anything indicating the presence of a reb. And some of them really seemed to enjoy it. We recall one sergeant as repeatedly gravely engaged in loading his gun. And then, rising and taking aim, firing; and each time there would come upon his face such a rapt expression of utter satisfaction as seemed almost seraphic. Of course many were entirely unused to handling firearms, and there were more "shots at a venture" that day in the regiment than it ever knew again. But each man did his best and bravest.

But good men were falling all the time under the incessant fusillade of the invisible foe. As they were wounded they, if unable to walk, were borne back to the Roulette house; if able to walk they could go farther back to our division hospital on the Smith farm, near our fording place. For about two hours this was continued. Sharp sense of danger was, after a time, dulled, and there was a bit of fascination in hearing the buzzing bullets passing by, or in seeing them clip a cornstalk or its leaves or strike up little puffs of dust at our feet as a running mouse would. Some of the time batteries were exchanging compliments over our heads, and occasionally one of these "compliments" would drop in our field, hoisting the earth, or, bursting in the air, would drop gentle showers of scrapiron upon us....

...From the right of the regiment, where the ground was considerably elevated, our men could see the hill eastward overlooking the eastern section of "Bloody Lane," and they there witnessed the splendid fighting of some of the old regiments of Kimball's brigade, the 14th Indiana particularly, and later those of the "Irish Brigade" coming up in support. As they saw at one time the old veteran color-bearer crawling along the ground, his comrades moving after him in like fashion, thrusting forward his flag-staff and fixing it in the earth and then pulling himself up to it, the bullets flying thickly around, or at another time the full color-guard rallying around the banner as they, leading their line, charged upon the enemy, the whole line contending and gaining inch by inch until they beat the foe in their front, our men learned what veritable fighting was - and they never forgot the lesson. The spectacle was thrilling and inspiring, as Col. Perkins often remarked, and never until then had our beautiful national banner, "Old Glory," assumed its proper place in our understandings and hearts. Its bright folds, enwreathed for moments in battle smoke and at other moments reflecting the sun's glowing rays from its spotless red, white and blue floating over brave Union men risking life for it, advancing steadily against the banner of treason and disunion made a picture ineffaceable from our memories and fixed the precious emblem in our souls forever. 239

Captain Samuel Davis was the commanding officer in Company H. Captain Davis was 23 years old and enlisted in the Company on July 12, 1862. He was commissioned to the rank of Captain and placed in command of Company H.²⁴⁰ In his letter back home on September 20, 1862, he describes the battle on September 17, 1862:

Our regiment was exposed to a terrible fire of musketry, shot and shell for over an hour. We were posted in a cornfield. A regiment in front of us broke and ran, breaking our line and creating a panic. Some of my men skedaddled shamefully. Tibbitts was shot right behind me. I got him from the field and came back, to find poor Tom Mills fallen, badly wounded. Took him off came back, finding but few of my men there, and Sam Watrous standing up; with the bullets flying around him, and laughing and blazing away like fury. He, with four or five more, were all of my company who were standing. I took a musket and blazed away until we were compelled to retire. During the fight a shell burst right over the colors under which I stood, tearing the top of the national flag off. Nobody was hurt by it, strange to say. I thought it a loud call for the undersigned. I have heard a great deal of music, both vocal and instrumental, but minnie ball singing joined with the musical shriek of shells and round shot, is improved by distance. We lost about 100 men from the regiment. Two Captains were killed outright, and several other officers wounded. All the old soldiers say that this is the most terrible fight they were ever in. I went over the battlefield today and the sight was awful. Men lie in windrows all over it, the rebels at least four to our one. Every field for miles around is a grave yard, and every house and barn a hospital. Our future movements are uncertain. I forgot to say that Charley Penhallow had a narrow escape - a minnie ball passing clean through the top of his cap, knocking it about two feet. I myself had several pretty strong hints that my longer continuance in this world was unnecessary. A ball passed through the belt of a cartridge box I had on. Men were shot on each side, and two or three in front of me and one directly behind me. The firing exceeded anything I ever imagined.²⁴¹

In Lieutenant Colonel Perkins official report on October 1, 1862, to the Brigadier General Joseph D. Williams, Connecticut Adjutant General:

The 14th was rather unexpectedly (and) being unprepared, quite reluctantly thrown into the Sharpsburg engagement on the morning of the 17th. Our position being on the right of the Second Brigade and in a cornfield with a deep gullied road in front and on our right. We engaged the enemy about the time of entering the corn. The 14th moved forward steadily until the right was confused by the rush of the regiment in front but we succeeded in reforming and moving again forward driving the grey backs before us until we came in range of a severe cross fire from the road on the right of us when for a few moments it seemed almost impossible for us to maintain our position and I am sometimes forced to believe as a wounded rebel Officer told me. They had us whipped three distinct times but we did not know enough to know when we was whipped and for this reason stood our ground so much for being know-nothings good for Conn. but in conclusion I will only say the 14th behaved well and obeyed every order with coolness and precision and we trust we have thus far maintained the honor of the glorious old State we have the honor to be represent.²⁴²

Colonel John B. Gordon, 6th Alabama, writes:

The entire force, I concluded, was composed of fresh troops from Washington or some camp of instruction. So far as I could see, every soldier wore white gaiters around his ankles. The banners above them had apparently never been discolored by the smoke and dust of battle. Their gleaming bayonets flashed like burnished silver in the sunlight. With the precision of step and perfect alignment of a holiday parade, this magnificent array moved to the charge, every step keeping time to the tap of the deep-sounding drum. As we stood looking upon that brilliant pageant, I thought, if I did not say, "What a pity to spoil with bullets such a scene of martial beauty!" But there was nothing else to do. Mars is not an aesthetic god; and he was directing every part of this game in which giants were the contestants....

...The fire from these hostile American lines at close quarters now became furious and deadly. The list of the slain was lengthened with each passing moment...The persistent Federals, who had lost so heavily from repeated repulses, seemed now determined to kill enough Confederates to make the debits and credits of the battle's balance-sheet more nearly even. Both sides stood in the open at short range and without the semblance of breastworks, and the firing was doing a deadly work.²⁴³

To add to the confusion during this initial battle, General Kimball's brigade, attacking to Colonel Morris' left, had to march over and around Morris' brigade to take their position.²⁴⁴

THE 14TH REGIMENT REGROUPS AT THE ROULETTE FARMHOUSE AND ATTACK BY THE CONFEDERATES (12 P.M. TO 12:30 P.M. SEPTEMBER 17, 1862)

From this account, the 14th Regiment was on the front lines from 9:30 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. Exactly when the regiment was ordered back from the front is uncertain. Chaplain Stevens recalls:

Just how or when the regiment was ordered to retire from this position cannot, perhaps, be known, for the companies seem not to have retired together: but the writer knows this, that when the hour of noon was near he saw Col. Morris with the colors and a portion of the regiment in a slight hollow which ran transversely of the field and the colonel asked him if he could inform him where Cos. B and G were. He replied that a moment before he had seen them at their places on the fence. "Please return to them and request them to rally on the colors here," said the colonel. The order was delivered, and soon all the companies were together and retiring to the rear of the Roulette house and into the yard between the house and the barn.

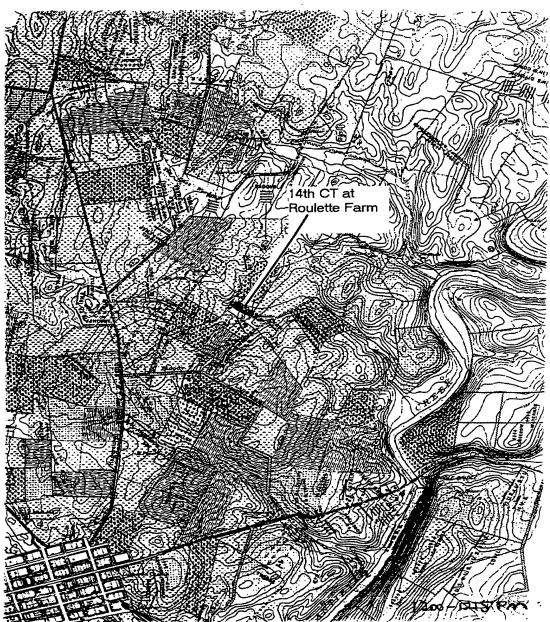


FIGURE 9. MAP OF THE BATTLEFIELD OF ANTIETAM, 12-12:15 P.M., SEPTEMBER 17, 1862

The Confederates made a last attempt to break General French's right. Major General Daniel Harvey Hill's troops, having been driven from the Sunken Road, reformed near the Piper farm. General James Longstreet ordered the 27th North Carolina Regiment and the 3rd Arkansas Regiment to attack.

They both attacked down the slope at General French's troops holding the ground. The Confederate forces broke through and made it all the way to the Roulette barn. Chaplain Stevens remarked that when the enemy perceived that the brigade had withdrawn from the field, the rebels attacked over the vacated ground through the cornfield and towards the Roulette house. At this time, Chaplain Stevens was caring for the wounded in the basement room of the Roulette house. As he saw the rebels advancing, the Chaplain stood outside the door and came within two rods of the advancing rebel infantry. The Chaplain stood outside the door and came within two rods of the advancing rebel infantry.

The attack by Hill's troops posed a threat to the rear of General French's lines. Colonel John Brooke's brigade from General Israel Richardson's division was just coming on the battlefield. General Richardson's troops had crossed at Pry's Ford at 9 a.m. and had marched south along the Antietam creek until it reached Neikirk's farm. The division immediately moved directly west into the battle. Colonel Brooke formed a line of battle on the crest in front of the Roulette house and attacked the Confederates. One regiment dislodged the enemy that was in the cornfield at the rear of the house. In addition, federal artillery hit the rebels in the cornfield to repel and finally end the attack.

After this attack, Colonel Morris' brigade was ordered to retire to support General Kimball's brigade. General Kimball's brigade was at the Roulette house obtaining ammunition in order to continue their attack against the Sunken Road. Colonel Morris reported to General Kimball and was directed to take his brigade to secure and hold a position near the stone wall beyond the Roulette barn. Colonel Morris did this with only the 14th Regiment from his brigade.²⁵³ The regiment took its position along the stone wall and waited to support General Kimball.²⁵⁴

THE 14TH REGIMENT ORDERED TO SUPPORT GENERAL ISRAEL RICHARDSON IN THE ATTACK (12:30 P.M. TO 2 P.M. SEPTEMBER 17, 1862)

The battle at Bloody Lane now began to shift away from General French's area. General Richardson arrived too late to coordinate his attack at the same time as General French, but he was able to renew the attack at the Sunken Road.²⁵⁵ General Richardson moved to the left of General Kimball's brigade that was located on General French's far left.²⁵⁶ Richardson was planning to strike the right of Hill's troops located in the Sunken Road.²⁵⁷ General Richardson's three brigades were comprised of Meager's Irish Brigade on his right, Brigadier General John C. Caldwell's brigade on his left with Colonel John R. Brooke's brigade in the rear.²⁵⁸

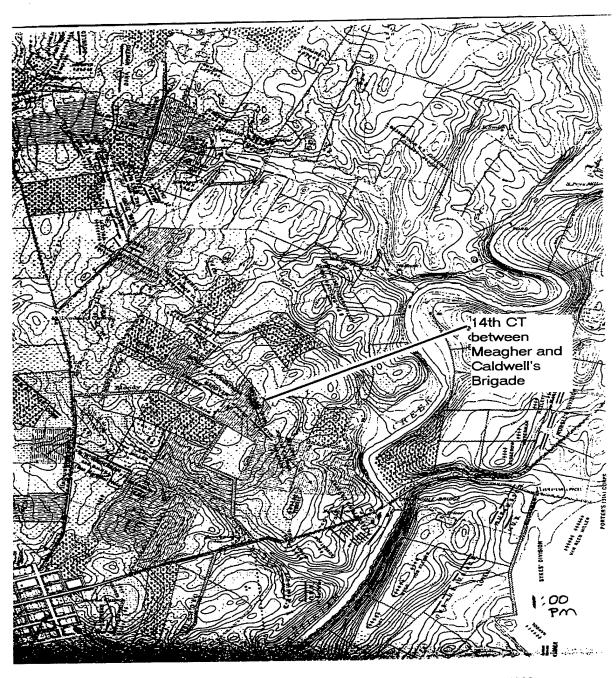


FIGURE 10. MAP OF THE BATTLEFIELD OF ANTIETAM, 1 P.M., SEPTEMBER 17, 1862

General Meagher's Irish Brigade led General Richardson's division in the attack on the Confederate lines. Soon the Irish Brigade was heavily engaged in combat to General Kimball's left. General Caldwell attacked on the Irish Brigade's left; then, Colonel Brooke on the extreme left. Colonel Brooke's men had advanced as far as the Piper house in extremely hard fighting. General Richardson's division was now able to flank the "Bloody Lane." This advance movement by Colonel Brooke on the far left required support, and General Kimball was directed to send assistance to Colonel Brooke.

General Kimball kept his own brigade and dispatched Colonel Morris with the 14th Connecticut and 108th New York troops. ²⁶¹ Colonel Morris was ordered to advance the 14th Regiment and the 108th New York to support Colonel Brooke, and to remain with them until further orders. ²⁶² Colonel Morris' 130th Pennsylvania Regiment stayed with General Kimball. Colonel Morris stayed with the 14th Regiment when his brigade was separated from General French's division. ²⁶³

The 14th Regiment's new mission would be to support a battery near the top of the hill near the present day observation tower.²⁶⁴ This was Graham's battery.²⁶⁵ During the movement from the Roulette farmhouse to the front lines, a shell landed, killing three men and wounding four of Company D. Sergeant Hirst recalls the incident: "I had just told the men to close up, and had got a couple of files ahead when it came to us with a whiz and the job was done,...we closed up like Veterans and moved on as if nothing had happened."²⁶⁶ The regiment closed ranks and moved forward at a quick time and in good order to join General Richardson's division.²⁶⁷

At 1 p.m., General Richardson ordered his soldiers to pull back across the Sunken Road and take position on the ridgeline in order to rearm and regroup to continue the attack. At this time the 14th Regiment was located between General Caldwell's brigade and General Meagher's Irish Brigade providing support to Graham's Battery. When General Richardson was supervising the placing the battery, he was struck and fatally wounded. The 14th Regiment soldiers carried General Richardson from the field. General Richardson died six weeks later. General Richardson died six weeks later.

On September 20, 1862, Sergeant Benjamin Hirst writes:

...we came under the shelter of a hill behind which the 81st Pa were lying, in their front was one of our Batterys with every horse killed. they stood up and gave us 3 cheers as we took position along side them. while lying here two more of our Company were wounded, it was here that Gen Richardson was wounded, i saw him carried off the field. after a while we moved further to the front during which move i counted our Company, and found we had out of 84 that moved with us in the morning, just 24 men [plus] 2 Sergeants (myself and Frank Staughton) and our 3 company officers, in all 29 men. all our field officers were dismounted, our Flags well Ridled with shot and shell, and the regiment all told numbered 345. we took our position in Face of a rebel battery who soon paid us their compliment in the shape of shot and shell, but did us no damage altho every shell Burst directly over our heads. i could see the men at the Guns and watched the course of every shell and i can assure you it was with no pleasant feelings, as we were not permitted to fire a shot. 273

Confederate artillery continually shelled the 14th Regiment while they were supporting Graham's battery.²⁷⁴ The 14th remained in this position for one hour until their new Division Commander moved them to the top of the hill farther up the ridge.²⁷⁵

THE 14TH REGIMENT PICKS UP A STRAY GENERAL AND HOLDS THE FRONT (2 P.M. SEPTEMBER 17, 1862 – SEPTEMBER 19, 1862)

On September 18, while lying in the plowed field, Captain Sam Fiske writes with his usual wit: "And finally, towards evening, the enemy being driven from all their positions, we were picked up by a stray general, and ordered to hold an advanced position across a plowed field, where we were within reach of the enemy's skirmishers, who have been practicing on us ever since; in which dirty and uncomfortable place I must bid you good-bye for the present."

The general, Captain Fiske is writing about, is Brigadier General Winfield S. Hancock. General Hancock was a brigade commander in General Franklin's Sixth Corps. He made a dramatic appearance on the battlefield and relieved General Caldwell, who was temporarily in command of General Richardson's division.²⁷⁷ General Hancock's arrival on the scene is eloquently detailed:

Among the galloping staffs which cross that bloody field in the early afternoon, arousing the momentary expectation of renewed attack, is one of especially notable bearing, at which men gaze long as it passes down the jagged line of troops from right to left. At the head rides a general officer whose magnificent physique, bold air, and splendid horsemanship are well calculated to impress the beholder. Behind him ride a group of as dashing aids-de camp as the army knows. It is Hancock, sent for in haste, from his brigade of the Sixth Corps, to take command of the division at whose head the gallant Richardson has fallen, never to mount horse or draw sword more. It is not amid the pomp of review, with bands playing and well-ordered lines, but on the trampled battlefield, strewn with bloody stretchers and the wreck of caissons and ambulances, the dead and dying thick around, the wounded still limping and crawling to the rear, with shells shrieking through the air, that Hancock meets and greets the good regiments he is to lead in a score of battles. The lines are ragged from shot to shell; the uniforms are rent and soiled from hedge, fence, and ditch; the bands are engaged in carrying off the wounded, or assisting the regimental surgeons at their improvised hospital; scarcely twenty-one hundred men remain with the colors of this fine, strong division.²

General Hancock's first command as a division commander was reportedly issued to the 14th Regiment: "Now, men, stay there until you are ordered away, this place must be held at all hazards!" General Hancock used the 14th Regiment to plug the gap between General Meagher's brigade and General Caldwell's brigade in the attack. The 14th was now placed, according to General Hancock, at a "dangerous point between General Meagher's brigade and General Caldwell's brigade." The 14th Regiment held this position in the plowed field for thirty-six hours under constant fire from the Confederates.

General Hancock's report on this incident:

General Richardson was severely wounded, about this time, while...personally directing the fire of one of our batteries. General Meagher's brigade having refilled their cartridge-boxes, returned... and took its position in the center of the line...Early in the afternoon, after General Richardson had been removed...I was directed to take command of his division by Major-General McClellan in person...My instructions were to

hold that position...I found the troops occupying one line of battle in close proximity to the enemy, who was then again in position behind Piper's house. The Fourteenth Connecticut...and a detachment from the One hundred and eighth New York, under command of Col. Dwight Morris, were in reserve, the whole command numbering about 2,100 men, with no artillery...I felt able...to hold the position as...instructed...but was too weak to make an attack, unless an advance was made on the right, as I had no reserves and the line was already enfiladed from its forward position by the enemy's artillery in front of our right wing, which was screened from the fire of our artillery on the right by a belt of woods.²⁸³

A large sharpshooter detail was formed from the 14th Regiment's flank companies. Here on the ridge as they formed a line, in a few hours' time the soldiers learned the practical knowledge of their Sharpe's rifles that they never received in their "Camp of Instruction." The 14th Regiment stayed all night in the plowed field. They ate what they had with them or what they could get from the dead soldiers' haversacks around them. During the night it rained, turning the plowed field into mud. On September 18, the 14th Regiment, now veteran soldiers, maintained their ground north of the Sunken Road, not moving an inch. Captain Fiske, lying in the field, describes the scene:

Am now writing you, sitting in a newly plowed field all strewn with the dead of our gallant Union soldiers, still unburied, lying as they fell; fourteen of the 88th New York, General Meagher's Irish brigade, lying, for instance, only two or three rods behind our present position, all in one line as they dropped at one deadly volley poured in upon them as they rushed forward on the gallant charge which did so much to win for us yesterday's hard-fought battle. ²⁸⁶

During the night of September 18, General Lee retreated across the Potomac.²⁸⁷ The next morning, September 19, it was apparent that the Confederate troops to the front of the 14th Regiment had withdrawn. At 10 a.m., Colonel Morris instructed Chaplain Stevens to tell General French that the regiment had been in their position on the plowed field for forty-two hours and request relief for the regiment.²⁸⁸ After being relieved by General Hancock at 10 a.m., the 14th Regiment rejoined their brigade. They received their rations and enjoyed a greatly needed rest in the East Woods.²⁸⁹ Chaplain Stevens recounts the incident:

...The "Aid" [Chaplain Stevens] finding the general about one-half mile away comfortably located told his errand. Bluffly, with both eyes blinking at the double-quick, the general said: 'Says they've been on that line forty-two hours, eh?' 'Yes sir.' 'Tell him all the more honor to the regiment then!' It is a question whether Genl. F. had the power to relieve the regiment at that time as it was still attached to Hancock's command. When the 'Aid' was returning to report his reception he met Genl. Hancock, with his staff, descending the hill, and on reaching the regiment learned that he had just relieved it and ordered its return to its own division. It was then directed to bivouac in the East Woods, about one-third mile from, and in front of, the Dunker Church. Here the men rested until the following Monday morning.

The question arises if there were men of the 14th Regiment who might have run from the battle. It is recalled that Lieutenant Colonel Perkins rallied the troops after some of the 5th Maryland broke and carried part of the regiment away. I am sure that some soldiers of the 14th Regiment "skedaddled" but in

no way does this detract from the accomplishments of the regiment at Bloody Lane. Captain Fiske said: "The vile, obscene, blasphemous swaggers of our regiment, the number of seventy-five or a hundred, were found wanting in that fatal cornfield, and came sneaking back for days after the battle, with cockand-bull stories of being forced into hospital service, and the care of the wounded." 291

The 14th Regiment hardly realized their first combat experience would find them at the "Bloody Lane" during the battle at Antietam. Lieutenant Colonel Perkins wrote in his official report on September 19, 1862: "As you are aware, our men, hastily raised and without drill, behaved like veterans, and fully maintained the honor of the Union and our native State. The list of losses in the battle at Antietam for the Fourteenth was 156." The 14th Regiment soldiers were:

...plunged within three weeks after leaving the peaceful scenes and avocations of their home state into one of the most fiercely fought and bloody battles of the war, with scant military drill and instruction in the use of arms; linked in a brigade with two other regiments equally deficient in discipline; with a frightful loss of men in killed and wounded, leaves in the minds of those who participated in it memories that cannot be effaced.²⁹³

THE FIGHTING 14TH REGIMENT (SEPTEMBER 20, 1862 – JUNE 8, 1865)

During the months after Antietam and before Gettysburg, battle casualties, illness, and disease substantially reduced the 14th Regiment. At Fredericksburg, the regiment suffered 122 casualties and Lieutenant Colonel Perkins was severely wounded during this battle.²⁹⁴ The regiment was reduced to a total of 375 men fit for duty by December 19, 1862 while quartered near Falmouth, Virginia.²⁹⁵ The regiment's officers rotated command until Captain Ellis was promoted and appointed commander on April 3, 1863. In May the regiment fought at Chancellorsville and suffered fifty-six casualties.²⁹⁶

THE 14TH REGIMENT AT GETTYSBURG (JULY 2, 1863 - JULY 4, 1863)

Nine months after Antietam, the 14th Regiment, and now a veteran regiment with 160 remaining soldiers, deployed for combat at the battle of Gettysburg.²⁹⁷ As a veteran regiment hardened by combat, their actions at Gettysburg would bring them great distinction and fame. It also marked the last time the original 14th Regiment soldiers would fight as a unit. The 14th Regiment was out on picket detail 2 miles back from the main body and rejoined their brigade on July 2, 1863. The regiment first supported Woodruff's battery, near Cemetery Hill, then detailed for a short time for provost duty and in the afternoon the regiment was moved further to the left to support Arnold's Rhode Island Battery.²⁹⁸ The regiment's final position was located on the Emmettsburg Road at the "bloody angle" of the wall, joined with the 71st Pennsylvania on their left to support Arnold's Battery.²⁹⁹

On July 3, Brigadier General Alexander Hays, the 3rd Division commander, ordered Major Ellis to capture the Bliss Farm located approximately 600 yards to their front. The Bliss Farm was halfway

between the Union and Confederate lines. The Confederates were using the Bliss Farm to fire upon Arnold's Battery and the 2nd Corps skirmishers. Major Ellis selected Captain Moore to lead four companies, totaling fifty to sixty men, to capture the Bliss Farm. Captain Moore captured the barn and several prisoners, but the Confederates still held the house. Major Ellis, having two companies or about forty soldiers out as skirmishers, led the remaining four companies in the attack. He left behind the colors and the color guards. The regiment captured the house and then, under orders, burnt the farmstead to the ground. The regiment lost ten killed and fifty-two wounded.

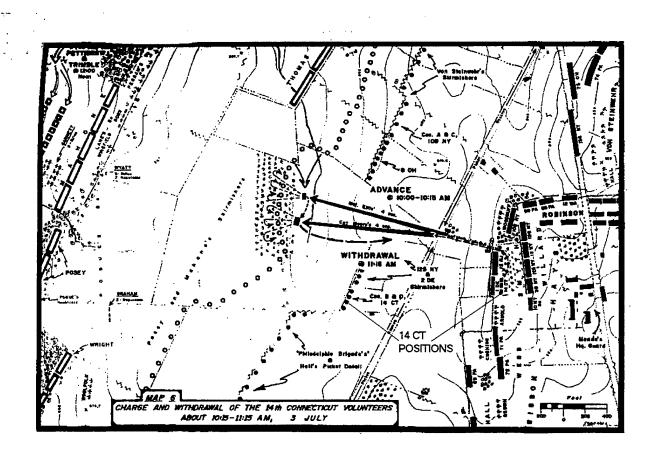


FIGURE 11. CHARGE AND WITHDRAWAL OF THE 14TH CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEERS 10:15-11:15 A.M., JULY 3, 1863

The remaining one hundred men returned to their position on the wall just before General George Pickett's charge. The their cartridge belts. Sergeant Hirst wrote "We must hold this Line to the Last Man." During the upcoming battle, all the men would stay and hold the line. During Pickett's Charge, then Sergeant Major William B. Hincks, Corporal Christopher Flynn, Company K, and Corporal E. W. Bacon, Company F, charged the attacking Confederates and captured the 14th Tennessee's, 52nd North Carolina's, and the

16th North Carolina's, battle flags. Hincks captured the 14th Tennessee, Flynn the 52nd North Carolina, and Bacon the 16th North Carolina. These three gallant individuals were awarded the United States



FIGURE 12. MAJOR WILLIAM B. HINCKS

Medal of Honor for their actions at Gettysburg. William B. Hincks, from Bridgeport, Connecticut, enlisted as a private into Company A, 14th Regiment at the age of 20. on July 22, 1862. Hincks stood 5 feet 11 inches tall, had a light complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. He was promoted through the ranks until appointed Sergeant Major of the 14th Regiment on June 4, 1863. Hincks was honorably discharged on October 20, 1863 to be commissioned as 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant of the 14th Regiment. He was promoted to Major on April 13, 1865. William B. Hincks and Corporal Christopher Flynn fought in the remaining 14th Regiment's engagements until the end of the Civil War. Corporal E. W. Bacon was killed at the Wilderness on May 6, 1864. 311 Major William B. Hincks citation reads:

During the highwater mark of Pickett's charge on 3 July 1863 the colors of the 14th Tennessee Infantry C.S.A. were planted 50 yards in front of the center of Sgt. Maj. Hincks' regiment. There were no Confederates standing near it but several were lying down around it. Upon a call for volunteers by Maj. Ellis, commanding, to capture this flag, this soldier and two others leaped the wall. One companion was instantly shot. Sgt. Maj. Hincks outran his remaining companion, running straight and swift for the colors amid storm of shot. Swinging his saber

over the prostrate Confederates and uttering a terrific yell, he seized the flag and hastily returned to his lines. The 14th Tenn. Carried 12 battle honors on its flag. The devotion to duty shown by Sgt. Maj. Hincks gave encouragement to many of his comrades at a crucial moment of the battle³¹²

Sergeant Hirst recalls the battle at Gettysburg years later:

I have often been asked to what superior generalship or strategy displayed at Gettysburg we owe this great victory. My answer after a careful study of the battle and the battlefield is, none. I have visited it several times since then and gone all over the field in company with COL Batchelder and the Gettysburg guide, Holdworth, until I know it as well as I do the streets of Rockville, and my answer is still the same, none....The claims set up by various generals that our victory was owing to the brilliancy of their movements cannot be sustained. To what then did we owe our success? The only true answer is, under the providence of God, to the grit and courage of the rank and file of the grand old Army of the Potomac, stripped for the fight as it never was before, and still smarting under the useless sacrifice at Fredericksburg, and our humiliating defeat at Chancellorsville. Look at us when we broke camp in front of Fredericksburg in pursuit of Lee, with the long and dreary marches under a burning sun by day, and the drenching

storms by night, which taxed the strength of the bravest and the best, while it culled out the sick and those who were physically incapable of standing the strain, and at the same time giving all those who had no heart in the cause or were cowards by nature ample opportunities of sneaking away under various pretexts of which they availed themselves. The man, from the humblest drummer boy or hospital nurse who reached Gettysburg in time to do his duty in the hour of need, is entitled to as much credit for the victory as was the grandest general in the field.³¹³

The battle at Gettysburg marked the turning point in the 14th Regiment's history. The 14th Regiment captured 200 prisoners, 5 confederate flags (1st and 14th Tennessee, 16th and 52nd North Carolina, and 4th Virginia)³¹⁴ and numerous field and line officers.³¹⁵ During the battle at Gettysburg, the regiment had sixty-six casualties.³¹⁶ All the original field officers were disabled or discharged within the past year. Four captains had been killed and most lieutenants were killed or wounded, leaving only about ten original officers on the 14th Regiment's roster. Approximately two-thirds of the officers and enlisted soldiers were gone from mustering in on August 23, 1862.³¹⁷

Captain Fiske sums up the 14th Regiment's feelings: "We lost the opportunity of the Fourth, the most glorious opportunity a general or army ever had: but we are being moved now with great skill and judgement to the execution of another plan, which promises great and victorious results, if one may be allowed to guess from the direction we are taking; and we wait with hope and good courage for the issue of our next battle." ³¹⁸

After Gettysburg, substitutes and conscripts joined the regiment to go along with the remaining veterans. The first new soldiers arrived on August 6, 1863 and continued to report afterwards. From its peak as battle-tested veterans on July 4, 1863, the 14th Regiment reached its low point on September 17, 1863.

THE 14TH REGIMENT RECONSTITUTES (JULY 5, 1863 – SEPTEMBER 17, 1863)

The period after Gettysburg witnessed frequent changes in the leadership from the 2nd Corps down to the 14th Regiment. On July 7, 1863, Sergeant Ben Hirst left the regiment. For Sergeant Hirst and the men from Rockville, the battle at Gettysburg ended the ties for Company D to Rockville. On July 7, 1863, Major Ellis was left at Taneytown sick, and Captain Samuel Davis commanded the regiment.³¹⁹ Major Ellis was later detailed to serve on court martial duty in Washington, D.C. and did not return to command the 14th Regiment until approximately August 18, 1863.³²⁰ On July 19, 1863, Captain Davis received an order to send three officers and six privates to Connecticut to get the new recruits. Captain Davis had the officers draw lots for two slots as he put himself on orders to go to Connecticut. This infuriated the regiment's officers.³²¹ Major Hill from the 12th New Jersey assumed command when Captain Davis left for Connecticut.³²²



FIGURE 13. CAPTAIN SAMUEL DAVIS

Colonel Dwight Morris, who was recovering from illness, managed to make it as far as Westminster, Maryland, before the battle at Gettysburg. 323 On July 5, 1863, Colonel Morris returned to assume the brigade command from Colonel Thomas A. Smyth, who was wounded at Gettysburg. 324 Colonel Morris remained in command until he resigned 325 and was later discharged for disability on August 14, 1863. Lieutenant Colonel Davis commanded the brigade when Colonel Morris was relieved. 326 Brigadier General Alexander Hays commanded the 3rd Division. Brigadier General William Hays remained the 2nd Corps commander after General Hancock was wounded. On August 12, Major General Gouverneur K. Warren relieved General William Hays. General Meade commanded the Army of the Potomac.

The 300,000 troops recruited for nine months in the fall of 1862 were scheduled to leave the service. The War Department asked Connecticut to reenlist their veterans to comprise

two volunteer infantry regiments. The United States offered a bounty of \$402, and the state offered a bounty of \$100 to all soldiers who reenlisted. Connecticut's new regiments would be the 22nd and 28th Infantry Regiments. This plan to raise two new regiments was abandoned shortly afterwards.³²⁷

On July 1, 1863, the War Department ordered a draft or conscription of the Connecticut enrolled militia with 50 percent as the goal. The quota for Connecticut would be 7,792, and the number required by draft would be 11,539. A provost–marshal general was appointed at Washington, and Major D.D. Perkins was appointed as assistant for Connecticut in charge of the recruiting and the draft. There was violent opposition to this plan throughout the northern states, with the most notable being a large riot in New York. This system allowed persons who were liable under the draft to get a substitute ahead of time to fulfill their obligation. Connecticut offered a \$300 bounty paid to each volunteer who enlisted and to each drafted person who could find a substitute. This substitute and bounty system caused widespread fraud. Bounty jumping became an occupation throughout Connecticut for vagrants who deserted at the first opportunity.

On July 25, 1863, Captain Sam Fiske, at Warrenton Junction, writes that he sees numerous difficulties and friction to carry out the draft's plan. He believed it would be difficult to get the new men into the units already deployed in the field and felt there would be a considerable number of desertions. The units on the front lines would be taking in untrained soldiers. Captain Fiske writes "there will be much ill feelings" between the original hardened veterans of the regiment and the new soldiers. Captain Fiske anticipated problems, with the veterans demanding the majority promotions. He foresaw the officers' and soldiers' inability to build a cohesive unit. He saw the conscripts and substitutes low character, morals, and integrity as disastrous. Captain Fiske regarded the substitute policy as a great mistake. 335

In Connecticut, the draft's result was not heartening. Connecticut drafted their quota of 11,539 men but issued an exemption to 8,000. Connecticut mustered 248 principals and 2,248 substitutes into the service. From this number, 400 soldiers deserted. Connecticut assigned 834 substitutes to the 14th Regiment, and a large number came from New York. These substitutes had participated in the riots and were signing up to flee the authorities. These new recruits did not represent Connecticut at large. 337

On August 6, 1863, Captain Davis returned to the regiment, but 70 out of the 117 soldiers he was in charge of deserted. On August 19, 1863, the 24-year-old Captain Davis was placed under arrest and confinement. On September 17, 1863, ironically one year from the battle of Antietam, Captain Davis was charged "for gross neglect of duty as officer of the day and whilst in charge of a detachment of drafted men, allowing seventy (70) out of one hundred and seventeen (117) to escape, and for general indifference to his duties and to the interests of the service." He was dismissed from service on October 31, 1863 under Special Order 417. Captain Davis was dishonorably discharged from service on December 7, 1863 on Special Order 500.

Captain Fiske, writes: "Are our ranks, thinned so sorely by disease, wounds, and death, only fit to be filled up by ruffians imported by your money from the dens of New York?" Captain Fiske labels the new recruits as "a set of mean, contemptible scoundrels, not fit to be associated with by decent people." According to John Hirst, these new recruits "robbed him and other remaining Rockville boys, deserted in droves, and earned his perennial contempt." Conscripts and substitutes now reconstituted the 14th Regiment.

As the 14th Regiment was mustered in with great fanfare and patriotism one year earlier, it now seemed to the 14th Regiment soldiers that Connecticut's citizens did not wish to support the war with the same intensity nor to send their own husbands and sons to fight. Captain Fiske questioned whether the Connecticut people had figured on the war's high cost and theorized the citizens had a hard time

accounting for the men, equipment, and money wasted. Captain Fiske chastised the citizens for sending mercenary wretches, who care neither for country nor reputation, who have sold themselves to you.

The 14th Regiment soldiers now numbered only eighty from their original numbers one year earlier. They looked at the new recruits, and it reminded them of the devastation that had hit their unit.³⁴⁵ Gone were their friends and neighbors with whom they marched into Camp Foote. Gone were their best friends who stood shoulder to shoulder in the open ground facing the Sunken Road. Gone were the veteran soldiers charging at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and defending at Gettysburg. In their place were the new conscripts and substitutes that had little in common with the 14th Regiment veteran soldiers.³⁴⁶

There was a "kind of conventional wisdom that these conscripts and substitutes lacked the backbone of the men of the early war." These men were not of the same character and generally were from the dregs of Northern society at the time. The conscripts and substitutes had "little moral fiber and little sense of social bonding with their comrades. Yet surely some of them (the cons and subs) had also been factory workers before the war, and thus immersed in the same kind of pre-war cultural system as Ben and his brothers." The regiment had been the hardest hit by losses and when it was reconstituted, it had the highest percentage of new recruits. In addition, the 14th Regiment had the largest number of desertions from camp and on the journey from Connecticut. The Connecticut Adjutant General's Report stated:

I here allude to this fact for the purpose of showing that the disgrace of this should not be charged upon Connecticut. These were not Connecticut men.

I have before referred to the demand for substitutes which sprang up immediately upon the passage of the act paying a bounty of three hundred dollars to each man who would furnish a substitute before being drafted. During the greater part of this time no bounties were being paid by the neighboring large cities, and as a consequence of this, and to meet the demand for substitutes here, large numbers of worthless characters, and professional bounty jumpers who only entered the service to desert and enlist again, found their way into the State from these cities, from Canada and elsewhere, were presented at the offices of Provost Marshals, mustered into service and sent to the rendezvous. Either there, or after leaving for the field, they deserted, receiving assistance from confederates outside, who furnished them with citizen's clothing and facilitated their escape.

After a thorough investigation I am satisfied that of the substitutes who have enlisted and thus deserted, not one in a hundred was a citizen of Connecticut. 350

Desertion had become commonplace in the army. Military authorities had to make an example in order to restore military discipline and to stop the widespread desertion. The outcome would be devastating to the 14th Regiment. After Gettysburg, the regiment continued receiving conscripts and substitutes and eventually received a total of 697 by the war's end. The regiment's strength

significantly increased, but it never reached the level it had been at Camp Foote in August 1862.³⁵³ The 14th Regiment's veterans returned after recuperating from their wounds and formed the leadership core upon which the 14th Regiment was rebuilt.

On September 17, 1863, the regiment came down from Cedar Mountain and camped at Robinson's Run about ten miles from Culpepper.³⁵⁴ Military authorities sentenced Elliot and Eastman from the 14th Regiment shot for desertion.³⁵⁵ Elliot was a draftee, and Eastman was a substitute.³⁵⁶ Although the court martial results were published one week in advance, neither man was informed until 12 p.m. on September 17. They were told the sentence would be carried out before 4 p.m. that very day.³⁵⁷ Chaplain Stevens was asked to render service to the execution, and the 14th Regimental band was selected to lead the way in order to make an impression. The regiment did not have to participate in the execution but only witness it along with the other units.³⁵⁸

The provost marshal's detachment responsible for the execution had a very distressing and difficult time in carrying out the sentence. The execution was shocking as only three out of sixteen guns fired because of faulty ammunition. Captain Fiske describes the event:

The men were only wounded; one of them, I think, not even touched; and he slid off the coffin on which he sat, on to his knees, slipped the handkerchief off his eyes, and stared full in the face the men who came up singly, and put the muzzle of their guns to his head, and - snapped caps at him. And the provost-marshal in charge had to come up with his revolver to put the poor fellows out of their misery; and then more guns were loaded, and more poor ammunition experimented upon, and the sentence finally fully executed, but made into such a scene of butchery, that all eyes were turned away from it, and all hearts shocked by it. 360

After the men were pronounced dead, the division was marched past the graves and the bullet-riddled bodies. In the future, new recruits would be marched past the graves to show them an example of what would happen to deserters. After this execution, stragglers were rushing back to their regiments. 362

THE 14TH REGIMENT (SEPTEMBER 18, 1863 – JUNE 8, 1865)

Immediately after the execution, the 14th Regiment began to transform itself and become once again a brave, hard-fighting regiment under Major Ellis.³⁶³ On September 22, 1863, Major Ellis was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and on October 11, 1863, to Colonel of the 14th Regiment. Ellis's rapid promotions were for outstanding leadership and valiant service.³⁶⁴ Brigadier General Ellis served until the end of the war at Appomattox.³⁶⁵ Captain Moore was promoted to Major³⁶⁶ and Captain Carpenter was transferred to the Invalid Corps.³⁶⁷ There was a common saying in the 14th Regiment that you would "meet death or promotion within a year."³⁶⁸ One year from its birth at Antietam, in the next eighteen months the 14th Regiment would find itself at Bristow Station, Morton's Ford, the Wilderness,

Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, the siege at Petersburg, Reams Station, the pursuit of General Lee, and finally the Army of Northern Virginia's surrender at Appomattox Court House. 369

On May 31, 1865, at Washington D.C. the 14th Regiment, comprising 234 soldiers was mustered out of service. The original 1,015 soldiers, only 200 were left at the final muster with the remaining 34 soldiers being former conscripts, volunteers and substitutes. On June 8, 1865, the regiment arrived at Hartford, Connecticut, on the transport steamer, the "Granite Slate," to a thundering applause. The regiment marched up State Street in Hartford with the "shreds of the tattered flags, none of which the regiment had ever lost. On June 15, 1865, all the soldiers had turned in their equipment, were paid by the paymaster, and received their discharges. Lieutenant Colonel Sam Moore was the last man to be discharged. From the original 14th Regiment soldiers at Antietam, Colonel Ellis and Lieutenant Colonel James B. Coit was appointed by brevet to the rank of Brigadier General. Coit served with the regiment until he was discharged in 1864. William B. Hincks and Corporal Christopher Flynn, both Medal of Honor winners, fought in the 14th Regiment's engagements from Antietam until the end of the Civil War. Hincks was promoted to Adjutant and was mustered out of the regiment as a Major.

The final strength on the rolls was 1,726 men comprising the original 1, 015 plus the 697 substitutes and volunteers who had served in the "Fighting Wooden Nutmegs". From their organization, the 14th Regiment's participated in thirty-three battles and skirmishes and served with distinction at the major battles involving the 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac. The 14th Regiment was in the greatest number of battles, the acquainteest number of combat casualties than any other Connecticut regiment in the Civil War. Brigadier General Ellis last correspondence to the state Adjutant-General reports the actual loss in killed and wounded has been upwards of eight hundred, besides the many counted as missing, who occupy unknown graves in the Wilderness and around Petersburg. In retrospect, the 14th Regiment's actions as soldiers are so eloquently written by Captain Fiske: They go into battle, aware that it is pretty much a chance whether their bravery and endurance will be of any avail, with a cheerful resolution that does them the highest honor. I glory in our common soldiers! I do not despair of the country when I see the materials that compose the army for her defense.

LESSONS

If world view is important to battlefield success, then how might similar facets of world view be propagated in the modern all-volunteer army? What, then, are the lessons that can be used by the Army today and in the future? This study determined that individual soldier's world view influenced his commitment to military service and his military performance. This study identified Sergeant Hirst's and the 14th Regiment soldier's world views that are relevant in the military today and in the future. These

views helped motivate them to fight with valor and gallantry from Antietam through Gettysburg and in subsequent combat operations. In doing so, the regiment fully maintained the honor of the United States and Connecticut. The key for the Army is to recruit soldiers and officers that possess the world view the Army requires.

RECRUITING

A volunteer force comprised of recruits from throughout the United States must possess a world view compatible with the Army's mission today and in the future. Volunteers are likely to possess a world view superior to any type of soldier drafted into service. The 14th Regiment soldiers enlisted because the men felt it was their duty. With a draft system, special rules invariably develop allowing certain individuals exemption. This happened in the Civil War, the Vietnam War, and if a draft were instituted today or in the future exemptions would arise also. These exemptions would cause a rift in the soldiers serving and a rift between the soldiers serving voluntarily and those being drafted.

If volunteers are the preferred soldiers for the Army today and in the future, how can the Army recruit soldiers? What could the future economic situation be that would be competitive with recruiting soldiers? The United States could stay prosperous into the next ten years or longer which would create a considerable competition in recruiting soldiers. One scenario is called the "Long Boom" which forecasts the next twenty years at full employment, continued boom on the stock market, improving quality of life or "ultraprosperity." This ultraprosperity envisions "low inflation, high employment, steady consumer confidence, price stability, low interests rates, rising wages, and lowering crime."383 Ultraprosperity could lead to worldwide "global openness." This theory says that prosperity cannot be isolated in certain parts of the world because it "creates intense competition among governments to construct environments hospitable to progress."385 The future prosperity scenario envisions that "labor is in such short supply that corporations 'hire' high school grads, and then pay for their four-year college education before they begin work."386 The result is a prediction that the gap for the educated workforce narrows.387 This scenario would have dire consequences on recruiting into the army. The recruitment effort for volunteers might center on "the idealism of fighting to uphold freedom, relieve suffering, and oppose oppression"... and "serving the higher ideals of America." The recruiting effort should emphasize enlisting for "the sacrificial virtues of duty, honor and patriotism - the hallmarks of military service." Volunteer recruits would more than likely have a world view that when a contract is made, your word is on the contract and must be adhered to.

The Washington Post reported on a "new survey commissioned by the AFL-CIO to help understand the work force of the new economy." The survey showed that today's generation seeks to change jobs every few years, and job security is not a priority. The younger worker is motivated to acquire new skills and education to assist them in their upward journey. However, "about 75 percent of young workers

today do not have a college degree. The promise of a high-tech career as a software engineer or a systems analyst is often little more than a fading dream."³⁹² The survey found that a majority of the younger workers, "can't afford the additional training or education to upgrade their skills."³⁹³ The Army has realized that times have changed. In the past, the younger generation enlisted for college money, but today many seniors would rather go off to college or take a civilian job after graduation.³⁹⁴ James Anderson of *The Washington Times* stated that the military cannot afford to pay at the same level as the corporate world, and should not. If the Army tries to recruit enlisted soldiers by stressing pay and benefits to match civilian or corporate pay, it probably "fuels a mercenary mindset."³⁹⁵ When the 14th Regiment was recruited, meetings were held throughout the state in a concerted effort to raise the six new regiments. Connecticut's patriotic fervor was raised to its highest level, and men from throughout the state eagerly enlisted into the service.³⁹⁶ The Army needs to focus recruiting messages to target the individual values, patriotism of the soldier, stress a higher calling to service for the country, and the value a soldier is to his/her family and his/her hometown.

The Army, in addition, needs to focus their recruiting efforts on what the Army can offer in skill development in high tech areas, leadership development, and individual goals soldiers can reach for in their personal ambition. Emphasize these skills and leadership development incentives, along with the offer that soldiers could save for college in the meantime. The priority of the recruiting efforts should focus on the skill development in high tech areas and leadership development, not on college money. This way, a recruit signs up for three years (18-21), develops leadership and high technology skills, and can return to college at the age of 21 as a more mature individual. This approach could also be used to recruit college freshmen that have decided that college is not what they want to do at this time in their life. To recruit college graduates, the Army could offer this skill development in high tech areas and leadership development tied to a shorter enlistment.

For officer recruitment, the Army should emphasize the point of technology and leadership development. It should use this method to recruit potential officers for the Reserves, National Guard, and Regular Army after graduation. ROTC recruitment literature needs to tie together the three components of the Army. Some students probably desire to join ROTC and be commissioned, but do not want to serve away from home for three or four years. By addressing all three components, Army ROTC could meet the required accession needs.

For officers already in the Army in the hi-tech areas, the Army should look at initiating career changes that would allow these officers to specialize in this area without penalty. Do these officers need to follow the current career path of command? Maybe a career program designed like the Acquisition Corps or the FAO program would retain these key individuals in the service.

One program that might be addressed is developing a relationship with civilian industry and small businesses. For example, in Rockville, Connecticut, during recruitment of the 14th Regiment, Mr. Barrows, the agent of The American Mills company, "pledged the company would pay the wages of every married man in his employ who enlisted, while in the service, and that every man should be re-employed upon his return home." The company faithfully kept this promise to the soldiers even though Mr. Barrows died. This program is in effect for reservists activated for active duty, but what about using it for soldiers who enlist? Therefore, if a young individual has a local job and decides to enlist, he or she knows that when the enlistment is up, he or she can return to his or her job in the community. The employers know that they will receive a better-trained, dependable, steadfast, and educated individual. The community gets back a more productive individual, and the Army gets a future recruiter for at least two generations.

ROLE OF THE OFFICERS.

Another lesson learned is remembering the role of officers in the Army. Even as technology changes and the battlefield changes there are specific roles that do not. As Captain Fiske stated that officers should take care of their soldiers, develop an understanding with their soldiers, look to their comfort, and share in their hardships. Sergeant Hirst emphasized it is the officers' responsibility to ensure that the men have proper food and shelter. The Army has to be aware of the impact when senior officers leave their command position for better opportunities elsewhere. Remember that Captain Burpee always remained in the hearts of Company D for leading the militia, but to Sergeant Hirst, Burpee's leaving them was for selfish gain and considered "abandonment of manly responsibility" and it took many years for Sergeant Hirst to change his view.

Senior officers have to remember enlisted soldiers and NCOs will have a world view concerning officers that has not changed since the Civil War. Soldiers will always question their officer's decisions. This is in keeping with the prevailing "American" ideal of questioning authority. The 14th Regiment volunteers had a tendency to question the chain of command and authority. Arrogance chafed Sergeant Hirst, and officer arrogance today or in the future will have the same result. Sergeant Hirst's convictions were aggravated when the officers viewed themselves as better than the enlisted men. Sergeant Hirst's view was that officers were no better men than the soldiers in the enlisted ranks. Another responsibility for officers is maintaining the good health of the troops or looking out for the soldier's welfare. Good health, in Sergeant Hirst's mind, was proper shelter from the weather and good food. Sergeant Hirst's world view has not changed today, nor will it change in the future.

The Army's current officers today and in the future should always remember what Captain Fiske wrote after the battle of Gettysburg on July 6, 1863. His words are still profound:

We boast of the American soldier as superior ... for the very reason that his education is superior, and his feeling of personal independence and manliness stronger. If we wish to make the most of this superiority, then, we must fight the American soldier intelligently, - let him know what he is expected to accomplish, and give him some knowledge of the general plan and object of the battle he is fighting. Here is just where our leaders have so often failed; they have treated the soldiers as a machine, and so a machine he has become. Treat our brave boys as men; they are and will be men.

CONCLUSION

RECOMMENDATION

This study determined that Sergeant Hirst's and the 14th Regiment soldier's world views are relevant in the military today and relevant in the future. From the analyses, the study determined if there were lessons that can be applied today. By recruiting from throughout Connecticut, the 14th Regiment's original soldiers truly represented Connecticut's noble character. Connecticut considered the 14th Regiment's men amongst the best elements from throughout the state, all having an outstanding character. The men were actively involved in their communities and state activities. 406 The regiment fully represented Connecticut and was considered "a regiment of the people." ⁴⁰⁷ By recruiting volunteers today, instead of a draft, the Army may get a soldier of a more noble character. By offering the previously mentioned inducements of training, leadership, serving the higher ideals of America, and return rights to their previous jobs, the Army could recruit individuals with a world view compatible with the Army. These volunteers would increase the diversity of the recruited population by drawing from all walks of life. Reviving a draft and the inevitable exemptions that would follow would probably end up enlisting individuals somewhat deficient in character and world view. This could cause an increase in training costs required at the Basic and Advanced individual training school level, and at the unit level to incorporate these new recruits into the unit. Remember that Brigadier General Ellis of the 14th Regiment had to retrain the 14th Regiment, relying on his veteran officers and NCOs before the regiment became combat effective again. However, the original 14th Regiment soldiers and officers, despite their limited training and "although under fire for the first time, behaved with great gallantry" 408 at Bloody Lane during the battle at Antietam.

Brigadier General Theodore Ellis in his final report to the Adjutant-General State of Connecticut wrote:

The character and standing of the regiment in the field was considered of the greatest importance, and little was done for reputation at home. A high state of discipline was always maintained, so that the regiment was called "the fourteenth regulars," and which obtained for it a reputation unsurpassed by any other.... While under my command the regiment never, even under the hottest fire, gave way or fell back without orders, and often held its position with fixed bayonets after the ammunition was exhausted. 409

Charles Page eloquently writes, "If any one perusing this record, imperfect as it is, gains therefrom a larger impulse of patriotism and a broader and more hopeful view of our country's destiny that patriotism and hopefulness will be a portion of the inheritance bequeathed to him by fortitude and valor, suffering and bravery of the noble Fourteenth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers."

WORD COUNT = 25,286

APPENDIX

Key Date Time	Event
May 1862	
21	War Department signifies its willingness to accept from Connecticut one regiment as its part to form a contingent for a "Camp of Instruction".
	Regiment ordered to rendezvous at Camp Foote, Hartford, CT.
.22	Governor Buckingham directs that "volunteers be received sufficient to form one regiment known as the Fourteenth Regiment of Infantry for three years". Dwight Morris appointed as Colonel by Governor Buckingham.
June 1862	Captain Sanford H. Perkins commissioned as Major by Governor Buckingham.
July 1862	
1 2	Governor Buckingham issues a call for 7,145 men to form six more regiments.
14 15	An estimated two hundred and fifty men have enlisted in the regiment.
16	Sergeant Benjamin Hirst enlists in Company D, 14 th Regiment.
	Company D from Vernon, CT. joins the regiment near the end of July under Captain Burpee.
30 31	Company B from Middletown, CT. joins the regiment under Captain Elijah W. Gibbons.
Aug 1862 1	
4	Captain Sanford H. Perkins commissioned as Lieutenant Colonel by Governor Buckingham. Company C from Waterbury, CT. joins the regiment under Captain Samuel Carpenter.
Friday 22 22	The last man enlists and the last commission signed in the regiment. Regiment consists of 1,015 men.
Sat 23	Regiment mustered into service of the United States by Colonel Webb of the regular army. Regiment consists of Companies A through I and K.
Sunday 24	gand
Monday 25	Regiment starts for Washington D.C. 6 Companies load on steamer "City of Hartford". 4 Companies load on transport "Dudley Buck".

Tues26		Regiment arrives in New York. Regiment transferred to large transport "Killvon-Kull to Elizabethport, NJ. Regiment travels by rail to Baltimore via Easton, PA.
Wed 27	Afternoon	The regiment arrives in Baltimore, MD.
	2100	Regiment heads to Washington, DC via rail.
Tues 28	0400	Regiment arrives in Washington, DC.
Reserved		Regiment reviewed by President Lincoln.
	1100	Regiment crosses over Potomac River on the Long Bridge to rest in Camp Chase on Arlington Heights, VA. Companies A & B issued Sharp rifles as they come off the Long Bridge.
		Regiment rest at Camp Chase.
Fri 229	0300	Regiment issued guns and ammunition.
4.6		Regiment marches along Pennsylvania Ave to the Long Bridge.
		Regiment issued Springfield rifles.
		Regiment marches to Fort Ethan Allen ten miles from Washington, D.C.
		,
Sat 30		Regiment at Fort Ethan Allen.
Sunday 31		Regiment at Fort Ethan Allen.
		3
Sept 1862 <u></u>		
		Regiment at Fort Ethan Allen.
		Regiment at Fort Ethan Allen.
3		Regiment at Fort Ethan Allen.
4		Regiment at Fort Ethan Allen.
5		Regiment at Fort Ethan Allen.
§ 6		Regiment at Fort Ethan Allen.
Sunday 7		Regiment assigned to Second Brigade of the Third Division (French), Second Army Corps (Sumner), Army of the Potomac (McClellan). Colonel Morris placed in command of the Second Brigade by seniority.
		Lieutenant Colonel Perkins assumes command.
		Regiment ordered to be in readiness in pursuit of Lee and departs Fort Ethan
		Allen. Regiment marches side by side with the "Irish Brigade" of General Meagher.
Monday 8		Regiment marches to near Rockville, MD.
Tuesday 9		2 nd Corps reaches Middleburg, MD.
Wed 10		
Thurs		Regiment marches to Clarksburg, MD.
Friday 12		Regiment marches to Hyattstown, MD and encamps at White Oak Springs.
Sat		Regiment marches to Frederick City, MD.
		Regiment sees first sign of war in crossing Monocacy River
	1200	Regiment reaches Frederick City, MD.
		Regiment camps outside the city of Frederick.

Sunday 14	0200	Regiment awakened and issued 3 days rations.
	0800	Regiment marches toward Sharpsburg, MD. Battle of South Mountain.
	1800	Regiment arrives at South Mountain. Ordered to the front.
Monday 15	0500	The men of the regiment see for the first time the dire effects of war.
All and a second	1000	Regiment crosses Turner's Gap and marches towards Boonsboro.
	1500	Regiment continues march through Boonsboro, Keedysville toward
2016	1000	Sharpsburg.
er en	2100	Regiment passes through Keedysville.
	2200	Regiment rest on Boonsboro Pike near Antietam Creek close to General McClellan's.
Tues 16	0800	Firing commences. Regiment rest on Boonsboro Pike.
Wed	0200	Regiment aroused to prepare for the march.
1472	0300	Regiment issued 96 cartridges and 45 caps.
	0720	General Sumner orders Corps forward.
	0730	Regiment starts in motion.
	0800	Regiment begins crossing Antietam Creek at Pry's Ford.
	0830	General French's Division crosses Antietam Creek.
en de	0845	Regiment arrives at the East Woods.
	0845-0900	General French's Division forms line of battle.
Transfer of	0900	General French's Division diverges widely to the left of the lead division of General Sedgwick.
The Parish of A	0900	General French's division crosses fence and heads towards Roulette and Mumma Farm House.
	0900-0915	Regiment moves towards Mumma Farm.
	0920	Company A hits Mumma orchard.
	0930	Company B under Captain Gibbons captures Confederate sharpshooters in the Spring House of William Roulette. Regiment enters the cornfield across from the Sunken Road.
	0935	5th Maryland breaks and rushes through the line of the regiment.
	0935	Lieutenant Colonel Perkins rallies the regiment.
	0940	Regiment emerges from cornfield and enters open field across from Sunken Road.
	0940	Engaged with D.H. Hills troops.
	1030	Regiment still in the open field.
	1100-1145	Company B supports Ricket's Battery.
	1130	Regiment still in the open field.
	1200	Ordered by Colonel Morris to reform at the rear of the Roulette house.
	1215	All units of the regiment reformed at the Roulette house.
2000 March 1990 2000 March 199	1215	Regiment ordered to take and hold a position by a wall of Roulette Lane to support General Kimball.
	1215-1230	Confederate forces counterattack down Mumma Lane toward Roulette House.
The second secon	1230	Regiment sent to support Colonel Brooke's 1st Brigade's, General Richardson's Division's. Regiment supports Graham's Battery.



1300 Regiment carries General Richardson from the field of battle.

Brigadier General Hancock assumes command when General Richardson mortally wounded.

General Hancock moves Regiment to the top of the hill.

General Hancock places regiment between Meagher's Brigade and Caldwell's Brigade at summit of the hill across from "Bloody Lane".

Regiment used as sharpshooters in a line facing the Sunken Road.

Regiment maintains position on the summit.

Regiment maintains position on the summit.

Regiment maintains their position on the summit until relieved at 1000.

Regiment maintained position for 36 hours.

Loss in killed 2 commissioned officers, and 19 enlisted men; wounded 2 commissioned officers and 86 enlisted men; missing, 28 enlisted men. Total loss, 156.

Regiment deploys into Fredericksburg, VA.

Battle of Fredericksburg, VA. Lieutenant Colonel Sanford Perkins wounded. Major Clark wounded. Captain Elijah W. Gibbon wounded. Captain Samuel Carpenter wounded.

Battle of Fredericksburg, VA.

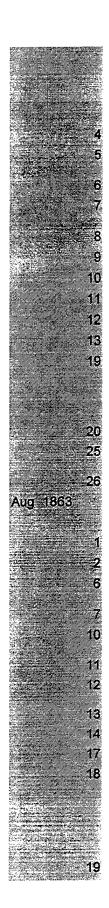
Battle of Fredericksburg, VA. Regiment withdrawn from Fredericksburg.

Captain Davis assumes command of the regiment.

Loss in killed, 1 commissioned officers, and 9 enlisted men; wounded10 commissioned officers and 82 enlisted men; missing, 20 enlisted men. Total loss, 122.

Captain Elijah W. Gibbon dies from wounds. The regiment reduced to a total of 375 men fit for duty by December 19, 1862 while quartered near Falmouth, Virginia.

April 1863		
1		
2		Adjustant Ellia promoted to Major and assumes command of the regiment
73 20		Adjutant Ellis promoted to Major and assumes command of the regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Perkins discharged due to wounds.
May 1863		Eleuterian Coloner of the dissilarged add to mountain.
		Regiment fights at Chancellorsville, VA.
2		Regiment fights at Chancellorsville, VA.
3		Regiment fights at Chancellorsville, VA.
		Loss in killed 0 commissioned officers, and 0 enlisted men; wounded 3 commissioned officers and 34 enlisted men; missing, 2 officers and 17 enlisted men. Total loss, 56.
June 1863		
July 1863		
1		Regiment consists of 160 men. Regiment two miles from Gettysburg on picket
,	0700-0800	duty. Regiment relieved. Marches up Taneytown Road towards General Meade's
		HQs.
	0800	Regiment located east of the Brian House and Zeigler's Grove on the reverse slope of Cemetery Ridge. Regiment in support of Woodruff's Battery.
	1200	Regiment moved to the left. Regiment located near grove of trees in support of
color to the color	1600-1700	Arnold's Rhode Island battery. Regiment moves to their left and deploys in a single line against the stone wall
	At Duals	behind the 1 st Del. 71 st PA on their left. Company A & F of the 14th were sent forward across the Emmitsburg Road as
THE STATE OF THE SEC	At Dusk	advance skirmishers.
3	At Dawn	Company B & D of the 14th were sent forward across the Emmitsburg Road as advance skirmishers to replace Company A & F.
	1000	BG Hays orders the regiment to capture the Bliss home and barn.
	1000-1015	Captain Samuel A. Moore from New Britain, CT leads 4 companies to capture and destroy the Bliss home and barn. Major Ellis leads the remaining 4
	1015-1115	companies in attack of Bliss Farm. Regiment battles Confederate forces at Bliss farm. Regiment captures the Bliss farm. Battle escalates.
Activities and Activi	1130	General Hayes prepares to executes General Hancock's order to burn the
	After 1130	Bliss Farm. General Hayes sends Captain Postles to the Bliss Farm to give the orders to
7.5	Aiter 1130	Major Ellis to torch the Bliss Farm.
A Constitution		Major Ellis supervises the removal of the dead and wounded and gives order to burn the Bliss Farm.
7.7.4	1 Hour	Regiment regroups at the Brian House to recuperate and eat.
		Regiment returns to deploy in a single line against the stone wall behind the 1 st
		Del. Regiment now consists of 100 men.
The state of the s		



1300 Confederate artillery opens as prelude to Pickett's charge.

Regiment collects 5 battle flags, 200 prisoners and regiment awarded three Medals of Honor.

Loss in killed, 0 commissioned officers, and 10 enlisted men; wounded 10 commissioned officers and 42 enlisted men; missing, 4 enlisted. Total loss, 66.

Colonel Dwight Morris commands the brigade. General Alexander Hayes commands the division. General William Hays commands the Corps.

Sergeant Hirst leaves the 14th Regiment because of wounds. Major Ellis left at Taneytown sick.

Captain Samuel Davis assumes command of the 14th Regiment.

Colonel Morris relieved of brigade command.

Captain Davis receives order to detail 3 officers and 6 privates to visit Connecticut and bring back conscripts.

Captain Davis draws lots for two officers to go to Connecticut to get conscripts.

Major Hill, 12th New Jersey put in command of the regiment.

Captain Fiske writes about the difficulties and friction to carry out the draft's plan.

Major Ellis on court martial duty in Washington, D.C.

The regiment encamps near Cedar Run.

Captain Davis returns to the regiment allowing 70 out of 117 to desert. The rest deserted enroute. Court Martial charges brought against Captain Davis.

The regiment receives 143 new recruits from Connecticut and 54 men desert by August 16.

General Gouverneur K. Warren relieves General Hays and assumes command of 2nd Corps.

Colonel Morris discharged for disability.

The regiment has 80 original members. The regiment encamps at Elkrun.

The regiment receives 134 new recruits out of 200 from Connecticut. The rest desert.

General Owen in command of the division.

Major Ellis returns to take command of the Regiment.

Captain Davis placed under arrest and confinement.



Regiment breaks camp at Elkrun.

General Alexander Hays commands the division. Lieutenant Colonel Davis commands 2nd Brigade. Major Ellis commands the regiment.

Regiment returns to Camp at Elkrun.

Regiment breaks camp at Elkrun.

Regiment camps at Culpepper.

Captain Carpenter transferred to Invalid Corps due to wounds at Fredericksburg.

Regiment near Cedar Mountain.

Regiment comes down from Cedar Mountain and camps near Robinson Run.

Captain Davis charged for neglect of duty at conscript camp at New Haven, CT. Dismissed from service on October 31, 1863 and dishonorably discharged on December 7, 1863.

Elliott, a drafted man, and Laton, a substitute, are informed of their court martial sentences at 12 p.m. They are shot for desertion at 4 p.m.

Regiment ordered out to picket duty.

Major Ellis promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

Captain Moore promoted to Major.

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